Hafa Adai!

USDA Census of Agriculture just a week away. **PAGE 6**
Free dive record holder swims in the Marianas. **PAGE 8**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 68

www.saipantribune.com | **MONDAY** APRIL 8, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

'CNMI drought to worsen'

The National Weather Service in Guam has extended the notice of anticipated dry weather for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Rainfall has diminished over the Commonwealth since January.

» **Rainfall in NMI down since January**
» **Outdoor burning is being discouraged**

After the passages of Super Typhoon Wutip and Tropical Depression 03W across the region several weeks ago, the post El Niño-like dry weather has returned and will likely continue through the spring of 2019.

The northern Marshall Islands north of Majuro, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and other areas such as Western Yap State and the Republic of Palau have received much less than normal rainfall over the past few months.

The drought conditions over the Mariana Islands have worsened and that trend will continue through the coming weeks. Saipan and Tinian in Particular will suffer from very dry weather.

Computer model guidance strongly supports the prediction that drier than normal weather will continue to spread across much of Microne-

See DROUGHT on **Page 4**

DISABILITY SPORTSFEST
Participants of the CNMI Disability Sports Festival on Tinian, led by first lady Diann Torres, have their group photo taken last March 30. The Rota sports festival was held Saturday, April 6, at the Rota Gym. The festival on Saipan is scheduled for April 13, 2019 and will be held at Marianas High School.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Archbishop: A 'sorrowful shame'

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The Vatican's decision to uphold its conviction of the U.S. territory's ousted Archbishop Anthony Apuron for sexually abusing minors marks a sorrowful chapter in church history, the current archbishop of Guam, Michael Byrnes, said.

"The church does not rejoice when members of the church plummet from grace and are found guilty of grave wrong. In this case, egregious sin of child abuse. It's a deep and sorrowful shame," Byrnes said at a news conference in Guam on Friday.

Apuron

Byrnes

■■■

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis has formally named

See SHAME on **Page 4**

MVA ups game for Golden Week

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

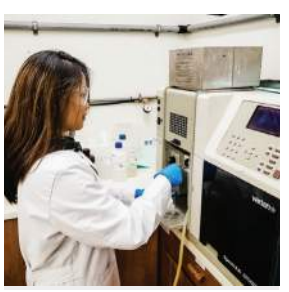
» **10-day Golden Week marks abdication of Emperor Akihito**

The Marianas Visitors Authority has embarked on an aggressive marketing campaign promoting Skymark Airlines Inc.'s charter flights in April for the 10-day Golden Week holiday period in Japan that will be historic as the days also mark the abdication of Emperor Akihito and the succession of his son, Crown Prince

See MVA on **Page 4**

INSIDE

LOCAL
Three women from Micronesia have been named to a Japan program that tags future leaders.
PAGE 5



LOCAL
The Water & Environmental Research Institute now offers its drinking water testing services.
PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE
Marvel's Avengers have assembled to support a $5 million donation to benefit ill children.
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Motion to transfer traffic cases to juvie court denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied the Office of the Public Defender's motion to transfer to Juvenile Court two traffic cases of a defendant who was 17 years old when the violations allegedly occurred.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled Friday that, with the Office of the Attorney General's dismissal of two charges against Manex Nimwes of having a blood alcohol concentration of 0.01 percent or more for a person under the age of 21, the Commonwealth divested the Juvenile Court of jurisdiction to adjudicate the alleged violations.

Therefore, Camacho said, Nimwes' motion to transfer his cases to the Juvenile Court is moot.

Nimwes is now 19.

In the first case, he was 17 when the OAG charged him in January 2017 with failure to stop before entering the intersection and remain stopped until green is shown, reckless driving, having a BAC of 0.08 percent or more as measured by a breath or blood test, driving while under the influence of alcohol, and having a BAC of 0.01 percent or more for a person under the age of 21.

In a separate case, in June 2017, the OAG charged the then-17-year-old Nimwes with unsafe weaving, driving without a license, reckless driving, having a BAC of 0.08 percent or more, and having a BAC of 0.01 percent or more for a person under the age of 21.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, counsel for Nimwes, asked the court to have the two cases transferred to Juvenile Court in accordance with the Commonwealth Juvenile Justice Act.

Under the Vehicle Code, a person shall not drive, operate or be in actual physical control of any vehicle while having a blood alcohol concentration of 0.01 percent or more for a person under the age of 21.

Zonas said at the time of the alleged violation, Nimwes was 17 years old.

Zona said the Commonwealth Juvenile Justice Act provides that the Superior Court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over any juvenile and over any adult who was a juvenile at the time of any act, omission or status offense.

The OAG noted the alleged historical practice of the Superior Court of keeping juveniles charged with having a BAC of 0.01 violation in traffic court if defendants were above the age of 16.

During the arraignment in July 2017 and a motion hearing in February 2019 in the first and second cases respectively, the OAG moved to dismiss the charges of having a BAC of 0.01 percent or more for a person under the age of 21. The court granted both motions.

In his order Friday, Camacho said that, of all the offenses charged against Nimwes, only the charge of having a BAC of 0.01 gave the Juvenile Court exclusive, original jurisdiction over him.

Camacho said because Nimwes was above 16 at the time of the alleged violations, and is not at this time charged with having a BAC of 0.01 violation, the Juvenile Court lacks jurisdiction over him.

Therefore, the judge said, the Juvenile Court lacks the authority to adjudicate the remaining charges in the two cases.

Camacho said had the OAG not dismissed the charges of having a BAC of 0.01 violation, the court would be required by law to grant Nimwes' motion and transfer his two cases to the Juvenile Court.

Support dominates Guerrero's re-appointment hearings

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite widespread support on both Saipan and Tinian, the re-appointment of Robert Guerrero as commissioner of the Department of Public Safety was opposed by two persons on Rota during one of his three re-appointment hearings.

Guerrero, who has been the acting DPS chief since December 2015, has been subjected to three separate hearings to hear from members of the CNMI community whether he should be re-appointed or not.

As of Thursday, the hearings on all three islands have been completed and the decision for his re-appointment is forthcoming.

During a hearing on Rota, DPS resident director Eusebio Manglona and his mother opposed Guerrero's re-appointment.

According to Guerrero, he does not know why the two opposed his re-appointment but he respects the process. Guerrero was already the DPS chief but had to submit his courtesy resignation—as per protocol—when the Torres administration came in last January.

"I'm sure there's reasons for someone within the department to go against you; you can't satisfy everybody. Somebody is always going to be against you. Some will be loyal to their previous commissioners, previous directors,

See SUPPORT on Page 4

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
HANMI
HOTEL ASSOCIATION NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
The Marianas
Saipan | Tinian | Rota
#MYMARIANAS
PARADISE FESTIVAL
CONCERT
PARTNERS WITH THE 38TH ANNUAL FLAME TREE ARTS FESTIVAL
KEIICHI SHINA
AMERICA'S GOT TALENT SEASON 8 WINNER
YIXIN WANG
QQ SINGER COMPETITION WINNER
HUH GAK
SUPERSTAR K2 TALENT SHOW WINNER
ULALA SESSION
SUPERSTAR K3 TALENT SHOW WINNER
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019 • 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM • CIVIC CENTER, SAIPAN
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE MVA AT +1.670.664.3200,
EMAIL MARKETING@MYMARIANAS.COM, OR
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM.
@MYMARIANAS @THEMARIANAS @MYMARIANAS @THEMARIANAS

The Best Gaming Club in Saipan
WELCOME TO Fabulous
SAIPAN VEGAS
GOLF RESORT & SLOT CLUB
April
PLAYER PROMOTION
PRESENTS
Mystery
EGG DRAW
With over $13,000 of Cash and Vouchers
and have a chance to win $2,500
on Daily 3 hourly Mystery Egg Draw!
Come Play today and be the next Big Winner!

‘Employers, take part in PWS first before filing CW petitions’

The Office of the Governor, together with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Labor, encourages the Commonwealth’s businesses and employers to participate in the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey before submitting CW-1 applications and petitions for renewals.

The 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey officially launches on Monday, April 8, 2019.

The survey will be conducted through a collaboration the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Labor, CNMI Department of Labor, and the CNMI Central Statistics Division under the CNMI Department of Commerce.

This comes after CNMI government and business leaders were recently informed by the U.S. Department of Labor that the latest prevailing wage survey for the CNMI expired on Jan. 1, 2019.

Under the Northern Mariana Islands US Workforce Act of 2018, the CNMI must have a prevailing wage survey each calendar year in order for USDOL to issue a Temporary Employment Certification.

“Having a true prevailing wage survey that is representative of the Commonwealth’s economy is a necessary factor in protecting both employers and its employees from economic hardships, where the cost to run a business and the price of goods will rise. Having reductions to the size of our labor force and hyperinflated prices will present real hardship for residents across the board, but we can prevent that by making sure businesses participate in the prevailing wage survey,” the Torres administration said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios are encouraging the community to support the prevailing wage survey because it will protect the economy from hyperinflation and allow wages to grow naturally as it has been over the last four years.

“Wages in the CNMI have increased over the last few years, because of a naturally growing economy that is driven by local entrepreneurship and the attraction of new industries and businesses that have employed more U.S. workers than ever before. Since 2014, average hourly wages have increased by 42 percent from $8.71 per hour to $12.38, and they will continue to rise. We just do not want to shock our economy by having Guam wages setting the benchmark. In order to continue our economic progress where everyone can have more opportunities for success, we need to come together as a community and support the prevailing wage survey by asking our businesses to hold off on CW applications until a prevailing wage for their sector is determined,” Torres said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce agrees with the Office of the Governor and believes that the CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey will ensure that wages are protected to ensure fairness and accuracy for employers and employees within the CNMI.

“Over the last few years, businesses across our islands have raised their wages across the board because of an economy that has grown organically, in which employers find opportunities to expand services and local entrepreneurs are realizing their dreams. Business growth improves the lives of all who live here, and we need a prevailing wage that accurately represents our economy and our community. That is why we are asking businesses to hold off on their CW applications because an updated prevailing wage for their sectors and occupations is needed first,” Chamber president Velma Palacios said.

The 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey will ask for employee information to be received electronically. Employers are asked to complete the electronic form and provide employee information for each individual employee in their company. For those with more than one business, employers are asked to complete one survey for each business.

After completing the survey, employers are asked to submit the completed survey to cnmi.csd@commerce.gov.mp with the subject line “2019 CNMI PWS.”

The first round of the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey will end on April 22, 2019.

For more information regarding the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey, and to download the survey form and detailed instructions, please visit www.cnmiprevailingwage.com. For additional questions, employers may call (670) 664-3006/7 for more information. ***(PR)***

CPA has tagged 5 projects worth $128M for Rota’s West Harbor

» $115M needed to install breakwater

File photo shows a vessel docked at the West Marina on Rota. The Commonwealth Ports Authority has identified five projects worth $128 million to fix and upgrade the island’s seaport.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To address the problem of high-priced items on Rota and stabilize its economy, the Commonwealth Ports Authority has identified five projects worth $13 million in all to fix and upgrade the Rota West Harbor, including installing a breakwater that will cost $115 million.

According to a CPA document called “Strategic Planning for CNMI Air and Seaports,” the people of Rota will continue to pay high prices for commodities so long as storeowners keep shipping in cargoes by airlines and passing the cost to the consumers.

CPA said it is imperative to install a breakwater built of concrete armor stones on the east side of the entrance channel of the Rota West Harbor to allow safe entry and to reduce wave agitation.

Without the breakwater, CPA said, Rota West Harbor is vulnerable to damage from the strong currents and high surfs entering the channel.

It is the only harbor on the island that can accommodate commercial vessels to bring in cargo from Guam, Saipan, and Tinian.

The four other projects are $5 million for the construction of a new Saipan seaport building, $5 million for the public marina expansion, $2 million for the expansion of Berth 2, and $1 million for the construction of a new commercial float.

During rough waters seasons, CPA said, the tug and barge have to postpone delivering cargo to Rota, leaving the community without commodities.

The project is seen to take five years; its funding source is pending.

On the seaport building project, CPA said a new building is needed to be built and relocated to the entrance road of the seaport, to allow easier access to customers needing CPA services.

The office spaces and restrooms are dilapidated and in need of renovation.

The current building is damaged and it has become very dangerous when waves come in from the water channel.

CPA said there have been numerous occasions when the waves are high and pass the retaining wall.

CPA disclosed that the flooring inside the warehouse shows that the building is sinking due to the strong rip current that is washing the boulders underneath.

CPA said the building itself is a safety hazard because it is situated near berth 2.

During high surf, CPA said, no one should be near the seaport as the waves are dangerous.

The seaport building project’s duration is four years and CPA is the funding source.

On the public marina expansion project, CPA underscored the need to accommodate more boats by private boat owners.

The island is known for its fiesta and fishing derbies, inviting people from Guam, Saipan, and Tinian to bring their boats to the island.

CPA said the floating slips need to be repaired as the majority of them are missing boards or are broken.

CPA said some of the damage are caused by recent storms and others are caused by commercial vessels’ misuse of the marina.

The expansion will also include a repair shop for boats, gift shop, restaurant, and restrooms and others.

The project duration is two years and its funding source is to be determined.

Regarding the expansion of Berth 2, CPA said it is needed to accommodate larger cargo vessels and for safer deployment of containers.

Berth 2 will be expanded 100 feet from the left and will include new bollards and fenders.

Currently, CPA said, when the barge arrives on Rota, it has to keep shifting back and forth for the crane to reach the containers at each end of the barge, which is not cost-effective for operations.

The project duration is two years and CPA is the funding source.

On the new commercial float project, CPA said it is necessary to accommodate the smaller vessels bringing in cargo for the people of the island.

Currently, CPA said, the smaller vessels cannot discharge cargo at the West Harbor as the loading docks are very high for the small vessels.

CPA said a new commercial float is necessary for smaller vessels to load and unload cargoes.

The project duration is two years and its funding source is CPA.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said the Strategic Planning outlines what the staff and management have identified as priorities that CPA will pursue over the next four years.

ARMATECH
Generator Rewinding Services and Maintenance

Tel: (670) 234-8895/97 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS
Over $123,000 in prizes won in the CNMI.
DRAW NUMBER 3935
PACIFIC GOLD
DRAW DATE 4/6/2019
WINNING NUMBERS
4 12 39 10 38 8
Next draw JACKPOT $2 MILLION
Get your tickets NOW!
Visit our NEW website:
www.nmsalottery.com
Now available on Android and IOS devices.

“Expert Care....Every Day!”

Marianas Eye Institute is very fortunate to have our outstanding optometric physician, Dr. Mark D. Robertson, on staff.
From simple eye problems, to the most complex,
Dr. Robertson and Dr. Williams are here to help you.
- Recipient of National Honors for Research in Eye Care
- Recipient of Optometric Recognition Award
- Certified by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry
- Doctor of Optometry - “Magna Cum Laude”

Open six days a week, Mon – Sat, 8 am – 5 pm.
We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo’s, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!
235-9090
Walk-in’s welcome.
Beach Road Garapan.
Marianas Eye Institute
“Where Technology Meets Talent”

Kagman schools set PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that Kagman schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting tomorrow, April 9, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. All parents, and guardians are encouraged to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided and there will be presentations by students and others. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

PALAU GIVES THANKS

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, 10th left, and Palau President Tommy Remengasau, 13th left, join members of the Palau National Congress after the signing of Presidential Proclamation 19-259, which thanks the people and the government of the CNMI for designating a public land on Saipan for the construction of a Palauan Community Hall.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SHAME

From Page 1

Monsignor Michael Byrnes as Guam's archbishop following the definitive sex abuse verdict against his predecessor.

Byrnes in 2016 had been named coadjutor bishop for the U.S. Pacific island territory, giving him the right of succession after Apuron was removed. On Saturday, the Vatican made that transition official after Apuron's guilty verdict was upheld on appeal. Byrnes has called the sentence "a monumental marker in our journey toward healing."

■■■

While the Vatican exiled Apuron from the Pacific island and barred him from presenting himself as a bishop, it stopped short of defrocking him. The Vatican announced the decision Thursday. It cannot be appealed.

"As a church, what we can do in all cases of this kind is to forthrightly acknowledge sin to mete out penance and punishment of the sinner for his own salvation," Byrnes said. "On our part, we'll do everything in our power to ensure that this horrible harm inflicted to the innocent is never repeated.

"I extend our deepest apologies to the local men and their families who suffered irreparable harm by Anthony Apuron in the past."

Byrnes apologized to the victims and their families.

"I will pray for my brother, Anthony, too, as I do for his victims. With humility, I ask for the faithful to also assist Bishop Apuron in prayer and penance, that he may find grace in repentance and mercy for his soul."

The Vatican upheld its conviction of Guam's ousted archbishop for sexually abusing minors, exiled him from the Pacific island and barred him from presenting himself as a bishop.

But it stopped short of defrocking him in a decision that again raised questions about whether the Vatican was truly embracing a "zero tolerance" policy for sex abuse, since it allowed Apuron to remain in the ministry.

Victims and their advocates denounced the sentence as inadequate. The ousted bishop continues to maintain his innocence.

The Vatican announced the decision against the 73-year-old Apuron last Thursday, saying a Vatican appeals tribunal had reached the verdict Feb. 9. The announcement ends a chapter that has convulsed the remote U.S. Pacific island territory, after some 200 people came forward accusing Catholic priests of raping and molesting them over decades.

Victims and their advocates denounced the sentence as inadequate, given the accusations against Apuron. The ousted bishop maintained his innocence in a lengthy statement Thursday and declared the decision to exile him from Guam "analogous to a death sentence."

His replacement, Byrnes, hailed the verdict as a necessary closure to a "long and painful period for our church."

"The victims, survivors and their families who have suffered greatly can have some measure of solace that justice has been rendered in the church's tribunal process," Byrnes said.

Despite the Vatican's judgment, Apuron cannot be criminally charged as the offenses took place as long as 30 to 40 years ago, beyond the statute of limitations.

Dozens of cases involving other priests on the island have since come to light, and the archdiocese was facing over $100 million in civil lawsuits when it filed for bankruptcy in January.

In Thursday's decision, the Vatican confirmed Apuron's original 2018 conviction and the original sentence, which removed Apuron from office and prohibited him from living on Guam in perpetuity. In an additional penalty, the Vatican said he is prohibited for life from using the insignia of a bishop.

Without an office or the trappings of a bishop, he is essentially demoted to the status of a priest, said canon lawyer the Rev. Davide Cito.

"It seems de facto he is being suspended from episcopal ministry," said the Rev. Robert Gahl, moral theologian at the Pontifical Holy Cross University.

Victims and their advocates said the absence of a defrocking showed the Vatican wasn't serious about cracking down on abusers.

"Not removed from clerical state, not removed from ministry. What more do we need to see to know that the pope and his curia intend to reneg on promises of zero tolerance," tweeted Marie Collins, an Irish survivor who resigned in frustration from Pope Francis' sex abuse advisory commission in 2017.

Anne Barrett Doyle of the online resource Bishop Accountability said the sentence didn't fit the gravity of Apuron's crimes.

MVA

From Page 1

Naruhito.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion disclosed yesterday that, according to the latest report that they received, the Skymark flights from Tokyo to the CNMI during Golden Week are nearly sold out.

"This is welcome news and something we expected, given the excitement we received for the first Skymark charters last month," Concepcion said.

He said MVA is very upbeat about the future of the Japan market, with Skymark launching regular flights to the CNMI and not just charters.

This Golden Week, which starts on April 29, is unique in Japan's history because the current Heisei Emperor Akihito will abdicate on April 30, the first Japanese emperor to do so in over 200 years.

Akihito's son, Naruhito, is set to become the next Emperor of Japan on May 1, 2019, or right in the middle of Golden Week, which will be 10 days long this year.

"So we expect many Japanese will be taking longer vacations and many will be traveling overseas," Concepcion said, adding that Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are the closest year-round beach resort destinations for the Japanese.

SUPPORT

From Page 2

but that's the nature of democracy," he said.

Guerrero did obtain widespread support from members of the Saipan and Tinian communities.

Guerrero is Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios' nominee for commissioner.

"Under his leadership, he has created a stronger and more efficient Department of Public Safety, streamlining public services, increasing the number of law enforcement officers on all three islands, and reducing the crime rate by addressing both violent and nonviolent crimes," said press secretary Kevin Bautista.

Guerrero himself was amazed at the amount of support he got from members of DPS, members of the Legislature, members or the Executive Branch, and the public who came to witness the hearing last Thursday.

"I never asked any of these employees that's up here to come up here. Even on Rota and Tinian, not a penny of government funds was spent so that tells me they are in full support," he said.

When asked how he felt about the re-appointment, Guerrero said it is never fun to be judged.

"You have a set of report cards that they can pick on, like why did I do this and why did I do that, unlike a new appointee where they'll make promises off the wall with everything I want to do but there's nothing to judge off," he said.

At the hearing, Guerrero was asked about some of the more controversial DPS issues in the CNMI, including what is being done about reckless tourist drivers, the number of cold cases that still remain unanswered, and more.

Guerrero is the former Department of Corrections commissioner, former director of Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, and has had years of law enforcement and military experience.

DROUGHT

From Page 1

sia, including the Marshall Islands, the Marianas Islands, and some of Yap State.

Although the main islands of Micronesia appear to have sufficient water resources at this time, they should plan for drier conditions over the next several weeks and perhaps months.

The experimental drought assessment of the U.S. Drought Monitor shows that Wotje of the Marshall Islands and Saipan and Tinian of the CNMI have worsened to extreme drought conditions called d3-s (short-term drought level 3 of 4).

Fananu of Chuuk State, along with Yap, Palau, Rota of the CNMI, and Majuro of the RMI are in moderate drought d1-s (short-term drought level 1 of 4).

Both Saipan and Tinian received less than an inch of rainfall in the month of March. Rota received 1.99 inches of rain at the airport but likely much less over other parts of the island. Showers have been spotty and brief. Rainfall has been abnormally low over the Commonwealth since January. Rainfall will continue to be below normal over the region from April into May.

Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the far Northern Islands will experience drought impacts during the coming weeks. In particular for Saipan, the drawdown of fresh water resources could be a problem in the next few weeks to months. Vegetation will dry out and a severe wildfire season could develop, especially where debris from Super Typhoon Yutu remains.

Because of the anticipated dry weather, the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is advising the community to take all necessary precautionary measures at this time. All outdoor burning activity is not recommended and should be delayed so as not to cause wildfires and endanger surrounding life and property.

Visit the following links for the latest advisory information:

■ CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/

■ CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CNMIGov/

■ Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ralphdlg.torres/

■ CNMI Joint Information Center: https://www.facebook.com/JICNMI/

HSEM also encourages residents to download HSEM's readyCNMI App available for free in the Apple Store or Google PlayStore to receive the latest weather updates and notifications.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000. ***(PR)***

3 Micronesian women named to leadership program

TOKYO, Japan—Three young women from Micronesia have been named to a program in Japan that identifies up-and-coming regional leaders.

They were selected by The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, a Tokyo-based private foundation that promotes relations with the island nations of the Pacific and Caribbean.

The women chosen for this year's APIC Young Micronesian Leadership Program are Milañ Loeak of the Marshall Islands; Joleen Ngoriakl of Palau; and, Teresita Laarwon of Yap.

Laarwon

Loeak

Nagoriaki

The women will travel to Japan this month to meet with regional affairs and environmental experts in government and academia. They will also get the opportunity to experience Japanese culture first-hand when they travel to Kyoto to learn how to wear kimono and practice the ancient art of the tea ceremony.

"We believe these young women have the potential to be among the region's top leaders, and even beyond," said APIC president Peter Yoshiyasu Sato. "We're looking forward to getting to know them, and having them learn about Japan."

Loeak is managing director of Lieom N. Corp., her family's investment company, and is active in community and cultural organizations. Her father, Christopher Loeak, is a chief and former president of the Marshall Islands. She is a graduate of Xavier High School on Chuuk, and attended university in the United States.

Laarwon is a teacher at Yap Catholic High School and previously worked at the Yap Visitors Authority in the Federated States of Micronesia. She is a graduate of Xavier High School, and has a degree from Spokane Community College. She's completing requirements to graduate from Eastern Washington State University.

Ngoriakl is chief of staff in the Koror state government in Palau. She previously worked for a local agency and a regional authority in Palau. The author of a published book for children, Ngoriakl is a graduate of Mindszenty High School in Koror and of Regis University. She is studying to complete a master's degree at Johns Hopkins University.

More information on The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation can be found at http://www.apic.or.jp/index_eng.html. ***(PR)***

Jose Mafnas Jr joins OAG

The Office of the Attorney General welcomes Jose P. Mafnas Jr. as its newest assistant attorney general. He joins the litigation team of the civil division.

"I am happy to have Jose Mafnas Jr. join as member of the Office of the Attorney General. Jose's experience and background in the legal field will assist and strengthen the office's litigation division," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan. "I am confident Jose will provide exemplary service to the government agencies of the Commonwealth as he brings his education and experience to our organization."

With a bachelor of science degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology from Chaminade University of Honolulu in 2011, Mafnas graduated magna cum laude in his class. He began his career in the Commonwealth with the CNMI Office of Adult Probation where he served as a probation officer in the felony division from 2011 to 2013.

In 2016, Jose earned his juris doctorate with an emphasis in Public Interest Law from the University of California at Davis School of Law.

While in law school, Mafnas worked as a legal research assistant for Prof. Rose Cuison-Villazor, whom he assisted in drafting scholarly articles for publication and also worked as a certified legal intern for the Sacramento District Attorney's Office where he assisted in the prosecution of various felonies.

Mafnas Jr.

As a law student, Mafnas was published in the University of California at Davis *Journal of International Law and Policy* for an article he authored titled "The Case of *Davis v. Commonwealth Election Commission*: The Power of the Covenant and the Alternative Result," which discusses Northern Marianas descent voting and land ownership rights in the context of the U.S. constitutional framework.

While there, Mafnas also represented his law school in regional and national moot court competitions on topics involving corporate securities and constitutional law.

Upon graduation from law school, Mafnas worked at the Supreme Court of Guam as a senior law clerk and research attorney for one year before moving back to the CNMI to work as an associate attorney in private practice for the Law Office of Stephen J. Nutting. As a private attorney, Mafnas engaged in the general practice of law in areas such as civil litigation, transactional work, probate, and criminal defense.

Mafnas also taught courses at the Northern Marianas College such as constitutional law, criminal investigations, juvenile delinquency, and professional writing for law enforcement as an adjunct lecturer.

"I am excited for the opportunity to contribute to the Commonwealth government, and I am grateful for the Office of the Attorney General for giving me this opportunity," Mafnas said.

He is admitted to practice law in the CNMI, Guam, and California. ***(OAG)***

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

How To Do Business With The Federal Government

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 @ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
1st Floor, CDA Board Room, San Jose

Presented by:
Boris Hertslet, Program Manager

Each year, the federal government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts to business to meet the needs of federal agencies and the military. This training will cover the steps needed in order to do business with the federal government:

- **DUNS Number**
- **SAM Registration**

YOUR PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS
Supported by:
GuamPTAC

Register at https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4339
For more information, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com.

Disclaimer: The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN) at the University of Guam – School of Business & Public Administration is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinian, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, and Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

How To Obtain a HUBZone Certification

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 @ 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
1st Floor, CDA Board Room, San Jose

Presented by:
Boris Hertslet, Program Manager

Each year, the federal government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts to business to meet the needs of federal agencies and the military. Did you know that the entire Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) is a HUBZone? The Small Business Administration (SBA) Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) program helps small business in urban and rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities. Learn how your company could benefit from the program.

YOUR PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS
Supported by:
GuamPTAC

Register at https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4340
For more information, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com.

Disclaimer: The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN) at the University of Guam – School of Business & Public Administration is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinian, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, and Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

Results of USDA agriculture census just a week away

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service will release the 2017 Census of Agriculture results on Thursday, April 11.

The full census report will include millions of data points, including number of farms, land in farms, total value of production, demographics, and more at the national, state, and county levels.

The report, along with a number of related publications, video presentations, and searchable data query interfaces, will be available on the NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov.

Available now in preparation for data release are three videos featuring NASS subject matter experts explaining the importance of the census, what's new in this census, and how to find census data.

"We are excited to share the new Census of Agriculture data next week," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. "The census data will help inform decisions about ag education, research, farm programs, rural development, and much more over the next several years. Conducting the census is part of USDA's commitment to you."

» Census data being taken in CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, USVI, A. Samoa

This census report will include new information on military service, food marketing practices, and on-farm decision-making. These additions help better capture the roles and contributions of beginning farmers, women farmers, and others involved in running a farm enterprise. Data from this census as well as previous ones are easily searchable on the new online Census Data Query Tool. To address questions about the 2017 Census of Agriculture data, NASS will host a live Twitter (@usda_nass) Ask the Census Experts Stat Chat on Friday, April 12, at 1pm ET.

At the same time that the 2017 Census of Agriculture data is released for the 50 states, NASS is collecting census data in the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The agency is also in the last few weeks of data collection for two Census of Agriculture Special Studies—the 2018 Census of Aquaculture and the 2018 Irrigation and Water Management Survey. These and other products, such as state, county, and congressional district profiles, will be released throughout the year.

The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840 in conjunction with the decennial Census. After 1920, it was conducted every four to five years. By 1982, it was regularly conducted once every five years as it still is today, mailed to every known farm and ranch in the United States.

NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. ***(seedworld.com)***

USDA to conduct Census of Agriculture in Guam

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, with assistance from the Cooperative Extension & Outreach at University of Guam's College of Natural & Applied Sciences and the Guam Department of Agriculture, will start collecting Census of Agriculture data from all known farmers this spring.

The Census of Agriculture provides the most widely used statistics in the agriculture industry.

Typically conducted every five years, it was last collected in Guam more than 10 years ago due to budget constraints. It is the leading source of statistics about Guam's agricultural production and the only source of comprehensive, comparable data at the island level. Among other things, the data can be used by local agencies and organizations to provide more effective production and distribution systems for the agricultural community. One of the most important uses of census data is to justify claims of farmers who may suffer damage and losses due to natural disasters, such as typhoons.

"Census data are used to make important local and national decisions that affect Guam's farmers and their communities," said NASS administrator Hubert Hamer. "We need to hear from all of our farmers in order to provide the most accurate, most helpful information about agriculture on the island."

Starting this spring, a local representative will visit each farm to assist in the collection of these vital data. For this effort, a farm is defined as all places from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, in 2018. For this census, USDA revised the questions to capture changes and emerging trends in the industry. The questionnaire includes an expanded list of commodities and new questions on agricultural practices.

Guam is included in the census program in accordance with an agreement between NASS and the University of Guam. Participating in the census is required by federal law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113. The same law requires USDA to keep all information confidential, to use the data only for statistical purposes, and to publish data only in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation. USDA will release census results in the summer of 2020.

For more information about the Census of Agriculture, visit www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. ***(UOG)***

MATTA FAIR

Marianas Visitors Authority Taiwan marketing manager Steven Cheng shares information about the Marianas with visitors to the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents on March 15-17, 2019, in Kuala Lumpur, Malysia. This was the MVA's first year to participate in the MATTA Fair, a bi-annual travel fair. Participants include travel and tour agencies, national tourism organizations, hotels, resorts, theme parks, cruises and other businesses.

MVA

From left, Marianas Visitors Authority Taiwan marketing manager Steven Cheng, managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, marketing specialist Hillary Agulto, and marketing manager Thomas Kim prepare to share information about the Marianas with visitors to the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents on Mar. 15, 2019, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. An estimated 110,000 visitors attended this year's event.

MVA

Frequently asked questions

1. What is the Census of Agriculture?

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land—whether rural or urban—growing fruits, vegetables, or raising food animals count, if $1,000 or more* of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

The Census of Agriculture, generally taken once every five years as funding and conditions allow, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. For farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, their opportunity.

**The census definition of a farm varies across U.S. territories. For the U.S. Virgin Islands, a farm is defined as having raised and sold $500 or more of agricultural product in the census year; American Samoa's farm definition is any agricultural product sales or product grown for home consumption. Commercial farms in American Samoa are defined as those with sales of $100 or more.*

2. Why is the Census of Agriculture important?

The Census of Agriculture provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agricultural data. Through the Census of Agriculture, producers can show the value and importance of agriculture in the islands, and they can help inform decisions that will shape the future of U.S. agriculture for years to come. By responding to the Census of Agriculture, producers are helping themselves, their communities, industries, and all of U.S. agriculture.

3. Who uses Census of Agriculture data?

Census of Agriculture data are used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities—federal and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations, and many others.

- Farmers and ranchers can use Census of Agriculture data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations.
- Companies and cooperatives use the facts and figures to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers.
- Community planners and local governments use the information to target needed programs and services to rural residents.
- Legislators use the numbers from the census when shaping farm policies and programs.

4. What's new about this Census of Agriculture:

To better capture all that is happening in agriculture, this census includes an expanded list of commodities and new questions on agricultural practices.

The U.S. Virgin Island census questionnaire also includes a new section about government agricultural programs.

5. How is the Census of Agriculture conducted?

Each farm and ranch operator will receive personal data collection assistance from a local representative through a partnership with and on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

6. Must I respond to the Census of Agriculture?

Yes. Federal law (Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113) requires all those who receive a Census of Agriculture report form to respond even if they did not operate a farm or ranch in the census year.

7. When will our Census of Agriculture results be announced?

NASS plans to release the census data in the summer of 2020.

8. Where can I find Census of Agriculture data?

Census of Agriculture data are available through your local USDA office and at many depository libraries, universities, and other government offices. It is also available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

Guam gets $6.3M in CIP funding from Interior

HAGÅTÑA, Guam —The U.S. Department of the Interior has awarded $6,327,000 in fiscal year 2019 Capital Improvement Projects for Guam.

This was announced during a meeting between Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Insular and International Affairs, and Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

"Assistant Secretary Domenech and I had a productive meeting yesterday and we discussed our shared goal of improving the quality of life for Guam and other U.S. territories," said Leon Guerrero.

Doug Domenech, Assistant left, Secretary of the Office of Insular and International Affairs, presents Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, center, with the award of $6,327,000 in fiscal year 2019 Capital Improvement Projects for Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"He's aware of our needs and has assured me that his office continues to work diligently in supporting and funding our priorities. I shared with him many outstanding concerns we have on our island, like Section 30 monies, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, Compact Impact payments, and necessary improvements to our government agencies to better serve our people."

The $6,327,000 in CIP funding will go toward the following priority projects:

■ $3,077,000 for the Department of Public Health and Social Services – Division of Environmental Health's new facility for processing, training, and office space.

■ $1,920,000 for the Department of Youth Affairs administrative offices, maintenance and supply depots, and emergency generator replacement.

■ $330,000 for the Department of Youth Affairs to purchase a cottage home in Mangilao to comply with the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Requirements.

■ $1,000,000 for the Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms initiative to address deferred maintenance in local school infrastructure.

"Public Health has struggled with facility and maintenance issues for years," said DPHSS Director Linda DeNorcey. "We finally have funding to help with our goal of updating our dilapidated facilities so we can better serve our people and provide a safe working environment for our employees."

DYA Director Melanie Brennan added: "Our mission at DYA is to provide our troubled youth with juvenile justice reform alternatives. We believe that detention should not be the end of the road for these kids, nor should it define their future. Offering them a safe space where they can feel accepted and understood is the first step towards healing and rehabilitation."

Additionally, Guam received an award of $1 million as a part of the DOI's Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms, which began in 2011 as a collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The award will be utilized for continued deferred maintenance of Guam's public schools. ***(PR)***

NEWS BRIEFS

Town Hall Meeting and Resource Fair for veterans

The U.S. Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting and Resource Fair on May 7, 2019, from 3pm to 4:30pm, at the Visitors Center of the American Memorial Park.

Veterans, their families, survivors, and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of veterans are being invited to this event.

The event intends to share information and resources, hear feedback from veterans and to answer questions on VA healthcare.

For more information contact Amy Rohlfs, public affairs officer, at (808) 208-5544. ***(PR)***

Guam tax refunds mailed

HAGATNA, Guam—The Guam Revenue and Taxation and Administration departments have mailed 377 tax refund checks totaling $843,594 for error-free returns filed on or before Oct. 17, 2018.

For inquiries, contact Dafne Shimizu, director, Department of Revenue and Taxation at (671) 635-1815/1816 or Edward Birn, Department of Administration, at (671) 475-1250. ***(PR)***

4.9-magnitude quake near Rota

At 4:42am yesterday, April 7, 2019, a report of a 4.9 magnitude earthquake occurred 27 miles south-southeast of Rota. Currently, there are no reports of injuries or damage to infrastructure and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-RHC-012

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 18, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM

"LUTA CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM"

ROTA HEALTH CENTER
LUTA CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 5153 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950-5153
TEL NOS.: (670) 234-6925 / 6958 / 8036
FAX NO.: (670) 234-1013

ISIDRO K. SEMAN
Director of Personnel

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 19-022
OPENING DATE: 02/08/19
CLOSING DATE: 02/08/20
*****RE-ANNOUNCEMENT (EA 18-223)***** **(CONTINUOUS)**

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: **Civil Engineer** **Ungraded**
$45,000.00-$50,000.00 P/A

The salary given will be determined by the qualification of the appointee.

LOCATION: **Department of Public Lands, SAIPAN**

DUTIES: Completes projects by preparing engineering design, analysis, reports and documents, and confirming specifications. Designs construction projects by studying project concept, architectural drawing, and models. Prepares engineering design by collecting and studying reports, maps, drawings, blueprints, aerial photographs and tests on soil composition, terrain, hydrological characteristics, and related topographical and geologic data. Prepares feasibility study by analyzing engineering design; conducts environmental impact studies, and assembles data. Prepares engineering documents by developing construction specifications, plans and schedules. Confirms adherence to construction specifications and safety standards by monitoring project progress, inspecting construction site, verifying calculations and placements. Maintains operations by enforcing project and operational policies and procedures. Provides engineering information by answering questions and requests. Maintains project data base by writing computer programs, entering data; completing backups. Prepares design criteria and scope of work for contract consultant A/E work. Manages and coordinates contract consultation, A/E, civil, and structural engineering work. Reviews outside engineering firm's plans and specification for compliance with departmental standards. Serves as liaison on issues pertaining to Brownfields program requirements or other federally funded projects. Travels to on-site projects to conduct a technical review of work performed. Reviews engineering, schematic drawings, design and technical maps for submission to DPL for contractors. Performs other engineering and technical duties as needed and recommends engineering solutions to Secretary. Performs other related duties assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a BS Degree in either Civil Engineering, Industrial Management or related field; plus two (2) years of experience in the field of specialization. Copy of diploma/degree or official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: This position is **"EXEMPT":** Is not eligible to receive overtime payment for overtime hours performed pursuant to Part IV. B16 of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulation (PSSR/R), Part I.7C of the Excepted Service Regulation (ESR) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

NOTE: Education and training claimed under item 24(A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma or certificate. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SEND THEIR CURRENT APPLICATION TO:

Office of Personnel Management
Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

Office of Personnel Management
Songsong Village
Rota, MP 96951

Office of Personnel Management
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952

Free dive record holder swims in the Marianas

MVA

China national free dive record holder Aolin Wang, center, visits the Marianas in January 2019, to film underwater footage to help promote the Marianas. Also pictured are Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, third from right, and other MVA and production staff.

A shipwreck near Managaha is one of the underwater sites featured in new video filmed in January 2019 by free dive recorder holder and underwater photographer Aolin Wang. MVA

The underwater wonders of the Marianas are coming to the attention of more potential visitors in China, thanks to recent social media coverage featuring free dive recorder holder Aolin Wang.

Wang is the first person to free dive over 100 meters and is also China's national record holder of the free diving competition Constant Weight with Fins at 110 meters. Videos and photos of his visit to the Marianas were released this month on Sina Weibo, China's largest social media platform.

"Aolin is not only a great diver but also a professional underwater photographer, so its great to have him playing a role in opening up to The Marianas among other ocean enthusiasts," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Free diving is becoming increasingly popular among Chinese adventure-seekers looking for a new thrill. The creative outcome of this group will be used for promoting diving in the Marianas. We believe more and more authentic divers will choose to explore the Marianas in coming years. We've begun discussion with Aolin on a possible promotional event highlighting the Marianas as the home of the world-famous Marianas Trench. Stay tuned for future details."

In cooperation with Century Tours, the MVA hosted Wang and a film crew on a media familiarization tour filming Wang and a "mermaid" at some of Saipan's iconic diving and snorkeling sites, including Grotto, Laulau Beach, Forbidden Island, and others. In addition to diving, Wang filmed the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan cultural dinner show and a self-driving tour around island.

The films made will be used by the MVA to further promote the Marianas via other media and platforms. ***(MVA)***

FSM efforts to systematize management of infra projects lauded

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Doug Domenech, assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior, has applauded the successes highlighted at the mid-year meetings of the Joint Economic Management Committee on March 19, 2019, in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia.

The JEMCO members and U.S. and FSM government officials were apprised on efforts being made in the FSM to systematize and institutionalize professional planning and management of public infrastructure projects.

With support and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the FSM government has now established and fully staffed three out of five program management offices in the FSM, and continues to lay the foundation for the professional management and use of public infrastructure funding and building projects throughout the FSM.

More than $200 million is available under the Compact of Free Association to build and renovate schools, hospitals, utilities, and other public infrastructure across the FSM.

While in Chuuk, U.S. officials visited the Chuuk Public Utility Corp. power plant on Weno with chief executive officer Kasio Mida Jr., and other key staff, where they saw new generators, equipment, and renovated infrastructure that was supported through more than $10 million in Compact public infrastructure grants.

COURTESY PHOTO

JEMCO member Bill Gallo; JEMCO member Nick Dean; JEMCO chair Nik Pula; Chuuk Public Utility Corp. chief executive officer Kasio Mida Jr.; U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Robert Riley III; Dennis Triana, lead, Power Generation and Maintenance; Yolanda Joab Mori, lead, Renewable Energy at Weno Power Plant.

COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. JEMCO members, U.S. Ambassador Robert Riley III, and staff visit the power plant with chief executive officer Kasio Mida Jr.

COURTESY PHOTO

During the hospital site visit, Dr. Dorina Fred points to empty wards previously used in a program 10 years ago when Chuuk State doctors and health officials, with support from JEMCO and other U.S. and international partners, successfully stopped an outbreak of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

In 2016, CPUC also successfully refurbished its wastewater treatment plant with funding support through the Compact.

"I understand that JEMCO chair Nik Pula and the other members were impressed by their visit to the Weno power plant, a once-failing utility that is now a model in the Pacific region," said Domenech. "I applaud this effective use of Compact public sector infrastructure grant funding that ultimately benefits the people of Chuuk and the FSM."

"The power plant in Weno has gone from being one of the most challenged in the Pacific with rolling blackouts every day, to now providing consistent power 24/7," said Mida. "With the combined support of political leadership, professional management, and financial assistance under the Compact, we have turned this utility around. We continue to work with the U.S. and other partners such as the Asian Development Bank to develop our utility services, and explore alternative energy sources, not only on Weno but in other populated islands in Chuuk State."

The U.S. team also visited the Chuuk State Hospital with Chuuk Public Health director Julio Mariur and Dr. Dorina Fred.

Discussions are underway to propose construction of a new hospital in Weno estimated to cost approximately $50 million.

Built during the Trust Territory era, prior to the implementation of the Compact of Free Association in 1986, the hospital is in great disrepair.

The hospital did benefit from renovations provided in 2008 by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, through a Department of Defense Pacific Partnership program. Originally built with a 120-bed capacity, it is the only in-patient facility in the State of Chuuk, serving over half of the FSM population, nearly 50,000, spread out over dozens of islands inside and beyond the Chuuk lagoon. ***(DOI)***

DOI allots $1M for students to participate in Close Up program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior has authorized the release of $1 million to fund the fiscal year 2019 Close Up Insular Areas Program that will allow approximately 180 high school students from island areas to Washington, D.C.

The students are from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—as well as the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

They will go to Washington, D.C. for civic education programs alongside their peers from the 50 states.

Funding would also support an additional 320 students and teachers participating in summits in the island areas.

"I am pleased to support this important program that has provided opportunities to many youth from the U.S. insular areas to visit Washington, D.C. and gain firsthand exposure to democratic institutions at the federal level," said Doug Domenech, assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "I am also pleased to note that U.S. Rep. Michael San Nicolas of Guam is an alumnus of this program."

The Close Up Insular Areas Program was first funded by the U.S. Congress in 1987 when House and Senate Appropriations Committee leadership decided to support students from the then-recently dissolved Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The program was expanded to include American Samoa and later the U.S. Virgin Islands. For the past 30 years, the Close Up Insular Areas Program has brought nearly 10,000 students and educators from the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States to Washington, D.C. ***(DOI)***

The Future of Saipan Depends on You!

(Chamorro & Carolinian Memorial Park & Article 12)

I will never forget the vast and ruthless destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu, especially in the area south of Saipan. It seemed like the sound of its winds was like hell itself whistling.

We have experienced scenes that we have seen only in movies. And it happened just three years after Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. We thought such a massive storm would not happen again for the next 30 years. But just three years later, we had a very bad experience with another typhoon named after a legendary Jade rabbit of China.

This only means that tomorrow is never promised to anyone.

How do we overcome these trials and what lessons can we draw from it? Why is this repeatedly happening in recent years?

In two words: Global warming.

This is a story that everyone knows, and this is a problem that cannot be solved by one person or one place.

Obviously, we cannot control the power of nature. We can only limit its impact.

And surely this disaster can happen again.

I believe that the extent of the damage can be considerably controlled based on what we do now.

Even right now, after five months, many people are still living in tents. We don't know when they can go back to their own homes.

But we cannot just wait for someone's help or support from the government.

How about that we organize a volunteer group that will help rebuild homes? A house can be rebuilt by just lifting one shovel, moving one brick, and as much as anyone can do.

If you help rebuild other people's homes today, they will likely help you rebuild your own in the future. Remember: "Heaven helps those who help themselves."

I sincerely pray that those who are hurt and are suffering now will be restored to normal life soon.

(After listening to my story, a businessman promised he would donate $10,000 worth of roofing materials. I do not doubtthat there will be more such people in the future.)

■ ■ ■ ■

There is the American Memorial Park. The Japanese Victims' Monument. The Korean Victims' Monument.

But I have never been heard about a Chamorro and Carolinians Memorial Park. Should we not build a place to comfort and memorialize them?

There was such a plan in 2015, but politicians succumbed to the logic of greedy developers and gave up what was to be a Chamorro cemetery.

But we cannot blame just the politicians. The developer too has some questions to answer. What was the developer's explanations on how its promises could be supported without any progress?

It would not make a sense to go back to shamanism in the 21st century, or think about what we did or did not do.

We apologize for what happened but I encourage you to establish a memorial park that we failed to do.

Also, we have to have a Chamorro and Carolinian Museum. (In May, the Saipan Korean Cultural Center says it plans to do a traditional Korean soul comfort dance at the Garapan area.)

■ ■ ■ ■

The other day I saw someone throwing trash and beer cans into the ocean. I ask you, who will come to see a dirty, polluted sea?

If we stick to this behavior, the future of Saipan is bleak.

A clean ocean is our lifeline.

When we learn to value nature, nature will cherish us, too.

■ ■ ■ ■

I know the Article 12 issue is very sensitive but we have to realize that the CNMI has come to restrain external investors because of this.

We cannot ignore the positive function of the law, but it is now time to change that. Honestly, I wonder how many the poor local people benefit from the law.

The time has come for us to shift our thinking, our attitude, and our perception of outside investors.

Can new laws be created that would allow land to be owned by investors, yet still create funds for the local people? If so, we will be perceived as friendlier and more open to investors.

Article 12 is like the law of a communist country. Not exactly the same, but think about: Someone purchases a building, house, or land, and the value of the goes down as time goes on, until its value is eventually gone. Who would want to invest in that?

This law is a stumbling block to the future and development of Saipan.

When I drive along the road, I can see many abandoned homes and buildings, and lots of empty lands. Why? Because no one invested.

I believe that most of the problems of Saipan will be resolved on the day that Article 12 is abolished, when an investor can own a building, a house and land forever.

That will put the CNMI on the same plane as the rest of the United States and all free democratic countries.

■ ■ ■ ■

Is there any roadmap for Saipan's economic development? Maybe a one-year development plan, a five- year development plan, or a 10-year development plan.

Clearly, random development and rational development are different.

For example, Capitol Hill offers an amazing view and I always go there. Unfortunately, government offices in the area are scattered.

I thought it would be better if the offices were gathered in one building that is in a convenient area. Not on Capitol Hill.

Would it not it be better to develop instead a luxury villa or residential area on Capitol Hill? One with a good view?

Honestly, the beachside and downtown area are better for hotels and resorts, maybe a shopping mall.

■ ■ ■ ■

I saw what happened to schools on the beachside after the typhoon. I felt so sad.

Gone was the place for our children's education.

Are we going to rebuild on the same place and in the same style? I think that is not good idea.

We know schools are absolutely important and nobody can underestimate that. But we have to provide our children more secure and well-built buildings—concrete buildings.

■ ■ ■ ■

Saipan must be designated by the federal government as a special tourist zone.

We need tourists, but if we lose even just one market, our life will be severely impacted. At least many of our family members or relatives could lose jobs. This is a serious issue.

By having Saipan declared as a special tourist zone, more tourist will create more jobs, and I believe that there will be more opportunities for our families to find jobs and live together without going to the U.S. mainland.

How about Tinian?

I think Tinian could be like Las Vegas or the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas.

And Saipan could be linked to Tinian via either a suspension bridge, a military-style bridge, or close harbor construction and ferry services.

All of these are feasible if an investor is allowed to operate with ownership of the investment.

Local elders and politicians should listen to these bottom voice and reflect on their decisions.

How about that we organize 'volunteer group' for built house.

If you help the other people's house today, other day other people going to built your house.

Like a pumice and cooperative.

When someone has a time or strength, they can work for built the house, just one shovel, move a one brick, as much as they can do.

I would like mention one more thing, it is rehabilitation program for inmates currently in prison.

Honestly, I don't know what kind system has right now for them, when we look at the situation in Saipan, it is not easy for someone with a criminal or any record to get a job.

It is natural thing that it is not easy for ordinary people to find jobs.

So I would like to proceed with establishes Construction technology education for them.

Electricity, Plumbing, Brick, Plaster, Welding, Carpenter, Tile.....

In the future, there will be a lot of demands for such things in Saipan.

First, engineers visit prisons to do theoretical training, and hand-on practice is practiced in the practice place provided by the donated.

Later, the inmates who acquired the skills could be put into the reconstruction project.

It this program is settled, it is expected that it will significantly reduce the recidivism rate and the imprisonment rate.

I can remember this word.

"Heaven helps those who help themselves"

I sincerely pray that those who will be regretted and hurt and those who are suffering will be restored and restored to normal life.

I hope that this article will become a little bit of the fire that reveals the future of Saipan.

I hope that these ideas will make people think about the future of Saipan.

Let's make Chamorro and Carolinian Memorial park and Museum.

Let's create a volunteer group to help build each other's houses.

Protect nature and do not pollute the environment.

Change that Article 12 law like all liberal democratic countries.

Gather government office in a convenient place and develop it.

Move the beachfront school and build concrete buildings and indoor gymnasiums with artificial grass playground.

Make Saipan a tourist special zone and keep more tourists coming.

Let's connect Tinian.

Let's create an architectural education program for inmates and local people..

Eugene Hong
Research Group for Saipan Economy
mansei21@yahoo.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 68

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2019
WILL A SOFTWARE UPGRADE GET RID OF THE LEMON SMELL?
737 MAX

EDITORIAL

C'mon Congress, it's time to lighten up on pot

If you weren't already convinced that the blanket federal prohibition on marijuana is illogical, counterproductive and confusing, consider this: Despite the ban, all but three states have legalized some form of cannabis.

That creates a serious and obvious conflict. To address it, the federal government—under President Trump as well as President Obama—has for the most part opted not to enforce its own prohibition, so that marijuana growers and sellers in California and elsewhere are effectively permitted to violate federal law. At the same time, though, they can't do business with most banks. Their legal status remains ambiguous. Medical research on marijuana is still stifled by restrictions. Tax collection is hindered. And the Department of Justice could change course and begin wide-scale prosecutions at any moment.

This is an untenable situation and an affront to the rule of law. For the second year in a row, a bipartisan group of lawmakers has proposed legislation in Congress that would address the problem by ending the federal prohibition in states that have chosen to permit medical or recreational marijuana under their own laws. As more and more voters choose to legalize pot products, it should be apparent that it is the federal law that is woefully out of date and out of step with public sentiment.

The only question is how much longer Congress can keep its head in the sand.

The legal conflict between the federal prohibition and the legalization movement in the states creates real problems. Most marijuana businesses can't open bank accounts or accept credit card transactions because financial services companies refuse to serve them for fear of being penalized by federal regulators. That means marijuana transactions are typically done in cash, which is dangerous for employees and makes it harder to collect taxes.

Health officials are also hamstrung. Marijuana is classified as a Schedule 1 drug with no medicinal value and a high potential for abuse. The federal government's strict limits make it hard for researchers to get access to cannabis for the kind of in-depth research necessary to understand both the benefits and dangers of marijuana use.

The bill in Congress, known as the States Act, would amend the Controlled Substances Act so that it would no longer be a crime for people to buy or sell marijuana, as long as they were following state laws. It also would extend the right to legalize marijuana to U.S. territories, federally recognized tribes and to Washington, D.C. (Voters there passed an initiative in 2014 to allow adult recreational use of marijuana, but Congress has blocked the district from permitting its sale.)

The lead sponsors of the bill are lawmakers from states that have legalized recreational and medical marijuana—including Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Cory

See CONGRESS on Next Page

A to-do list for America's immigration czar

By RICHARD J. DOUGLAS
The Baltimore Sun

Richard Douglas was a U.S. consular officer in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for counter-narcotics from 2006-2009.

During the mid-1980s, I lived in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, as a U.S. foreign service officer. One way or another, I have been engaged with the border and Mexico ever since. Today, the largest migration crisis in my lifetime is unfolding on the U.S.-Mexico boundary. There is talk in Washington, D.C., about a czar to oversee interagency immigration policy. This is an urgent necessity.

Here is a suggested "to do" list for the appointee.

First, the czar should immediately ensure that the administration position on the principle of refugee non-refoulement (non-return) is properly aligned with U.S. interests. The international refugee regime is not a suicide pact. The United States may—indeed, must—derogate from it in a national emergency like the one unfolding now on our border with Mexico. The practical effect would be immediate return of unlawful entrants to Mexico.

Next, the czar ought to take a lesson from our nation's post-war experience with Vietnamese refugees and consider an "orderly departure" program for persons abroad who desire refugee or asylum status in the United States. The program should be hosted by (for example) international human rights champion Costa Rica or perhaps by Panama, where there happens to be a U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) regional office. On the day it begins operation, the program should immediately become the exclusive channel for asylum and refugee processing, for the duration of the national emergency, for any person not already physically present in the United States, whether that person is in Tijuana or Tierra del Fuego.

On the domestic front, the czar should encourage the executive branch to immediately suspend work authorization validity and processing across the board for all border violators, exempting only persons whose asylum applications have been finally approved after Article III judicial review. This enormous "magnet" to illegal entry must be neutralized.

Next, Chapter 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations should be amended to remove provisions concerning hiring that put border violators on an equal footing with American workers. In other words, "hiring American" must be decriminalized.

In addition, the executive branch should count Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Delayed Enforced Departure (DED) numbers (and similar programs) against the congressionally-fixed U.S. annual refugee admission quota. There has been nothing "temporary" or "delayed" about either of these back-door amnesty programs, and we can no longer afford to tolerate the fiction that there is.

Executive branch lawyers should also explore the president's taxing or banking authority to impose a federal fee on wire transfer remittances from the U.S. to targeted foreign destinations. The fee would be fully refundable upon the filing of a federal tax return. The states should be encouraged to enact similar fees; Oklahoma already has.

The executive branch should curtail or eliminate visa operations in migration-source countries whose populations flagrantly ignore U.S. entry requirements. Similar logic, in reverse, is used to open or close the door to a given country's participation in the Visa Waiver Program. Resource savings should be reprogrammed to immigration law enforcement in the U.S.

Next, the czar should work to obtain the removal of all border violators from e-Verify. In fact, most Americans—including members of Congress—would probably be shocked to learn that e-Verify does not screen border violators out of the system already. In fact, the system is blind to illegal entry, and that must change.

On the multilateral front, if the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration and the UNHCR do not engage usefully and immediately to help respond to the Western Hemisphere migration crisis, the executive branch should reprogram associated funding for both organizations to domestic immigration law enforcement efforts.

Several state governors have removed their National Guard assets from the southwest border to hamper executive branch attempts to control the migration emergency there. The czar should encourage our national government to federalize National Guard assets in those states and return them to the border as needed to deter narcotics and human trafficking. Sanctuary jurisdictions should also be considered for possible National Guard military police deployments to assist with detention of criminal aliens, where local law enforcement has been shut out by virtue-signaling state or local legislatures.

U.S. authorities should also be encouraged to step up enforcement in two other critical areas: U.S. employer sanctions for hiring border violators, and U.S. narcotics consumption. The cash streams flowing southward as a result of both of these activities dwarf bilateral U.S. aid, and have a direct role in creating the lethal chaos tearing Central America and Mexico apart today.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Boeing crashes reveal FAA failures

By MICHAEL R. LEMOV
The Baltimore Sun

Michael R. Lemov is an attorney who served in the 1970s as general counsel of the National Commission on Product Safety and chief Counsel for the House Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. He is the author of People's Warrior: John Moss and the Fight for Freedom of Information and Consumer Rights (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2011) and Car Safety Wars: 100 Years of Technology, Politics and Death (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2015).

The public and airlines around the world have long accepted the Federal Aviation Administration as the gold standard for certification and safety, and Boeing as the gold standard for airplane design.

But absent radical changes, neither will be so highly regarded in the future given the recent Boeing 737 Max plane crashes, which killed 348 people within five months in Ethiopia and Indonesia.

In my years as general counsel of the National Commission on Product Safety and chief counsel of the House Commerce Oversight and Investigations subcommittee, I reviewed many failures of safety regulation as well as some major successes. The failures were often tied to the power of big money to influence well-intended legislation and regulation; the successes often grew from public outrage and courageous political leaders.

The cause of the two crashes, while still not finalized by investigators, appears to be a new anti-stall software system (the MCAS) used by Boeing to allow its modified 737 to use larger engines, carry more passengers and perform more economically.

The reason for the change was competition from European manufacturer Airbus, selling the A320, a new, more efficient airplane. In a rush to meet Airbus competition, Boeing and the FAA failed to require adequate pilot simulator training on the new MCAS, the anti-stall software, and to inform pilots what to do to disengage it the event of a system failure. Two safety devices to alert pilots to software problems, a "disagree light" and "angle of attack" gauges, were sold by Boeing only as options.

The result was that, even though the new software was certified for safety by Boeing and the FAA, pilots were unable to quickly recognize and disengage malfunctioning MCAS software, sometimes frantically scanning Boeing manuals as their planes plummeted downward. At least half a dozen pilots reported being caught off guard by repeated sudden descents by the 737 MAX.

What is the underlying reason for these crashes and their likely adverse impact on Boeing and in U.S. safety leadership?

The FAA states that it does not have enough expert employees or sufficient budget to staff the review and testing of complex new airplanes. Boeing lobbied hard for changes in the law to permit delegating much of the safety review process to it, and Congress obligingly went along. That turned safety certification into a continuing conflict of interest—an accident waiting to happen.

The FAA delegated to Boeing the design of the 737 MAX, the amount and nature of simulator "hands on training" and the software information given to pilots. With the FAA's approval Boeing made key software safety systems an optional purchase.

If the now co-opted FAA had mandated adequate simulator "hands on" training for pilots on the new MACS and its tendency to drive the nose of the plane downward and if warning options showing malfunction of the MCAS had been incorporated into the plane and not sold as extras, the two crashes might not have occurred.

There are some essential actions that should be taken to avoid future air disasters like this one.

1. A multi-member air safety commission, with bi-partisan commissioners serving staggered terms, would protect safety better than the FAA's single administrator, who is more subject to industry and political pressure. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is an example of such a multi-member government safety structure.

2. A legal prohibition on the "revolving door" between employment by manufacturers and the safety agency's top appointments is needed, including a prohibition on top appointees working for a company in the aircraft industry for a period of years after serving with the FAA.

3. Delegation by the FAA of major safety review functions and overall certification of airworthiness to manufacturers should be prohibited.

But no matter how the agency is structured, no matter what prohibitions on the "revolving door" between industry and government are incorporated by law, if the agency does not have the funds to hire and retain expert engineers and designers, it most certainly cannot fully protect the public.

Taking steps to improve our air safety system will not be easy. Congress alone can legislate the changes. But only the American people, at the polls, can ensure that they elect officials, including the president and Congress, who are committed to protecting public safety.

CONGRESS

From Page 10

Gardner (R-Colo.), and Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) and David Joyce (R-Ohio).

The bill was drafted last year after drug warrior and then-Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions rescinded the Obama administration's hands-off approach to states that had legalized marijuana. That raised concern that the Trump administration would start to prosecute businesses and people involved in the nascent legal market. Advocates, however, got a boost when President Trump said he "probably will end up supporting" the bill. Still, the proposal didn't get very far.

This year could be different. Democrats now control the House and are more amenable to moving legislation that would ease up on prohibition. In fact, the House Financial Services Committee last week overwhelmingly advanced a bill that would let banks provide services to legal marijuana businesses without running afoul of federal law. It was the first time the House had ever held a hearing on the topic.

The States Act will have a hard climb in the Senate; Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has been wary of marijuana legislation. And Trump—whose words are often not backed by action—is not a reliable supporter.

Nevertheless, the bill appears to be the most promising effort to end the contradiction between state and federal law. That contradiction becomes more frustrating every year as more states, like California, vote to move marijuana sales out of the shadows into a regulated, controlled and taxed marketplace. The federal government should not continue to make it difficult for states to fulfill the will of the voters.

(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

My quest to catch up on 'Game of Thrones'—and avoid all the spoilers of the Twitterverse

By ANDREA HANIS
Chicago Tribune

Andrea Hanis, first of her name, writer and editor at Chicago Tribune, watcher of episodes and slayer of spoilers.

It began with a challenge to myself, the way some decide to run a marathon or summit Mount Everest. Dare I attempt to catch up on the HBO epic "Game of Thrones" before the final season begins April 14?

Fantasy and sword fights are not my thing. GIFs of Jon Snow in the snow had not moved me. Yet I began to have the unsettling sense that I was missing an essential cultural touchpoint.

I'd have to watch seven full seasons—67 episodes of about an hour each—in five weeks. Could I even?

On a gray Saturday morning, I tentatively watched the first episode and was rocket-propelled by its audacity. The next time I looked up I had burned through Season 1. The following day I watched all of Season 2. I rubbed my eyes. The workweek was about to interrupt, but a still-daunting to-watch list was now surmountable. A fan of the show sent me an encouraging tweet: "All men must die. But we are not men."

The show was sexy and exhilarating and traumatic. There were deaths, a great many of them. "Everyone is going to die, so I won't like anyone," I told myself. "Nothing can surprise me at this point anyway."

Oh, but it can. And for that reason, the effort to avoid spoilers was worth it.

Near the beginning of my quest, my very newsroom published a slideshow called "Game of Thrones: 33 Shocking Deaths," or as I thought of it, "This Could Not Be Worse for Me Right Now." I avoided scrolling the Tribune homepage for a few days.

I fretted about spoiler fear to my deskmate, and we concluded "The web is dark and full of terrors." I handed over my phone so he could block a long list of character names from my Twitter feed. He and others humored me when I began conversations with "I want to talk about 'Game of Thrones,' but you can't say anything." Very few people can resist basking in their superior knowledge by dropping a hint or two.

Nonetheless, I trustfully tweeted my progress. Friendly fellow travelers sent messages of support or exclaimed about key events I'd safely passed. Watching out of sync with society, I experienced the broad outlines of the "GoT" plot—battles among groups of people while a more existential threat looms—as a climate change allegory. Not everyone agreed with me, but since they were forbidden to speak, they couldn't argue much.

In real time, viewers had recovery time after the intensity of high-stress episodes, though usually there are just one or two gory sword fights amid the soap opera. But watching eight hours a day, it seemed wise to shield my brain from exposure to that much violence. I learned exactly where to hold a hand in front of my eyes to blot out the worst but follow along at the edges of the screen, to the tune of clanging swords and tortured screams. I had vivid dreams.

When I binge-watched "The Wire" years ago, I stayed up too late and let routines fall by the wayside. This time I tried to keep up with life at least a bit. By skipping the four-minute opening credits, I saved enough time on longer watch days to briefly be Returner of Phone Calls and Doer of Dishes. I did invest precious minutes in the directors' recaps, though, to catch my breath and review family names and themes.

Before long, it will be almost impossible to avoid last-season spoilers. Target has shorts with Westeros written across the butt, a sure sign that the hype beast has awakened.

In real time, contract talks tipped viewers that certain characters would survive to see another paycheck. Such entertainment news is also a reminder that they're simply actors, and I was spared that. For me, in the last few compressed weeks, they've been Tyrion and Cersei and Daenerys and nothing more.

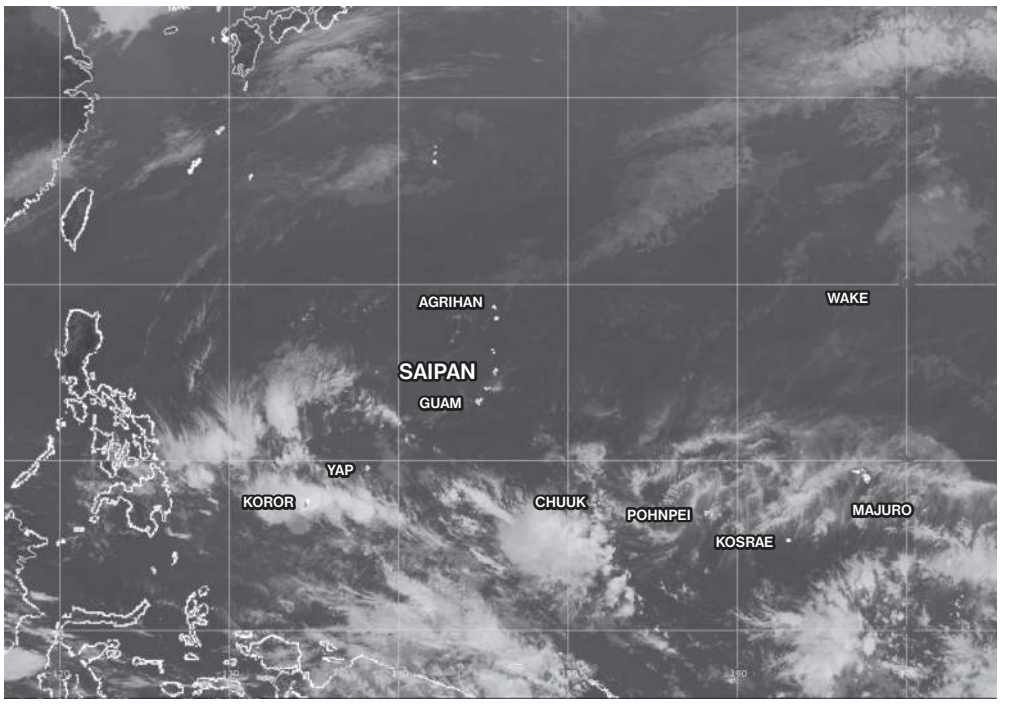
I know what's coming, though, as I revel in this richly drawn, suspenseful universe for just a little longer, disconnected from the very cultural chatter I sought to join. The joy was in the journey. The sad words of the final ritual will be intoned all too soon: "And now her watch has ended."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 78°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:45 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show only a few clouds across the region. Thick cirrus over Guam provided for a colorful sunrise, but little cloud cover is seen elsewhere across the area. Buoys show seas of 5 to 6 feet in the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	87° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	70° / 59°
Beijing	Cloudy	61° / 39°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Showers	84° / 71°
London	Cloudy	57° / 45°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	87° / 63°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	83° / 74°
New York	Rain	66° / 55°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 46°
Paris	Showers	63° / 45°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Salem	Thunderstorms	75° / 59°
San Francisco	Cloudy	61° / 50°
Seoul	Cloudy	61° / 39°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	61° / 43°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	79° / 63°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.71
9:07 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86
3:55 PM	LOW TIDE	0.06
10:20 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.83

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:05 AM	8:59 PM	-
Tuesday	8:49 AM	9:54 PM	-
Wednesday	9:37 AM	10:50 PM	-
Thursday	10:30 AM	11:48 PM	-
Friday	11:26 AM	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Over 240 avail of Lions Club health fair

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 240 people flocked to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral's Joeten Daidai Social Hall last week during a Lions Club's annual health fair.

A total of 249 people registered to avail of free medical services offered by the Lions Club International District 204, Region 2 at its annual health fair in Susupe last March 31, 2019.

The medical services included blood pressure check, sugar/glucose testing, vision check, diabetes awareness, cancer awareness, oral cancer screening, distribution of reading glasses, and general health awareness that will improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

For the first time, the club also offered free haircuts after the health screenings; the Lions Club said 78 participants availed of this service, manned by barbers sent by Jigz Barbershop, Genoveva's Hair Power, Trends Beauty Salon, Magic Touch, and Be.YOU.tiful Salon.

Health service providers included Hardt Eye Clinic and Diabetes Education Center, Northern Marianas College Nursing Club, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Immunization program, Non-Communicable Disease Bureau, Commonwealth Cancer Association, and the Division of Public Health Services Dental Clinic.

"I am grateful to our fellow Lions and Leos for their untiring support," said Lions Club Region 2 chair Annamae Adaza. "Right now we have three Leo clubs—Saipan Teen Unity Leo Club, Saipan Marianas Alpha Leo Club, and Saipan Mighty Dolphins Leo Club, as they are the future Lions. Each Lions clubs can create their own projects [at the] club level in which we focus on five service challenges: the youth, environment, vision, hunger and diabetes."

Region 2 is composed of six clubs on Saipan: Saipan Fil-Am Lion's Club, Saipan Unity Lion's Club, Saipan Marianas Lion's Club, Saipan Alliance Lion's Club, Saipan Natibu Lion's Club, and Saipan Centennial Lions Club.

Lions Club International annual health fair volunteers pose for a photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Lions Club International annual health fair volunteers stationed at the guest registration.

Lions Club International annual health fair volunteers pose for a photo.

Volunteers from the Hardt Eye Clinic offer services at last week's Lions Club International annual health fair.

Reading glasses were given away.

Vaccines were offered at the Lion's Club International annual health fair.

Volunteers from the Commonwealth Cancer Association pose for a photo.

Free haircuts were also provided after the medical services.

Judge: CDA violated Article 12

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court ruled on Wednesday that a consent judgment that the Commonwealth Development Authority authored that resulted in the non-foreclosure of a couple's Garapan properties and violates Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

Article 12, Section 1 states that "the acquisition of permanent and long-term interests in real property within the Commonwealth shall be restricted to persons of Northern Marianas descent."

Article 12, Section 2 allows for property to be transferred via foreclosure on a mortgage and to a spouse by inheritance.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that foreclosure is not the same as a "deed in lieu of foreclosure," meaning only the property that was put up for collateral can be foreclosed, and not a substitute property.

Camacho said land is a scarce cultural resource in the CNMI and therefore the requirements of "Article 12 should be strictly enforced."

The judge issued the ruling in a lawsuit filed by Roman Blanco Matsumoto and Lillian Manglona Matsumoto against CDA, denied CDA's motion to dismiss the Matsumoto couple's Article 12 claim.

Camacho, however, dismissed the Matsumoto's allegation that CDA violated the CNMI Consumer Protection Act.

According to court records, the Matsumotos borrowed from CDA and used their lands in Garapan as collateral.

The Matsumotos did not pay back the money and CDA filed a lawsuit in 2009 to foreclose and for money due against the Matsumotos.

Instead of foreclosing on the Garapan properties, CDA authored two documents: a proposed consent judgment and a deed in lieu of foreclosure for land in As Lito—not the Garapan properties.

The Superior Court approved the consent judgment on Nov. 14, 2012.

In January 2018, the Matsumotos amended their complaint, alleging that CDA violated Article 12, Section 2 by taking a deed in lieu of foreclosure from them, rather than obtaining a judgment foreclosing the mortgaged properties.

The amended complaint also alleged that CDA violated the Consumer Protection Act.

CDA then filed its motion to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that the Matsumotos' Article 12 claim must be dismissed because the acceptance of the benefits rule prevents them from challenging the consent judgment, or, in the alternative, the deed in lieu of foreclosure satisfy the foreclosure exception in Article 12, Section 2.

CPA argued that the Consumer Protection Act claim must be dismissed for failure to state a claim.

The court heard the motion on April 17, 2018. Mark Scoggins argued for CDA. Juan T. Lizama argued for the Matsumotos.

In his order, Camacho ruled that CDA's use of a deed in lieu of foreclosure for the land in As Lito violates Article 12, Section 2 of the Commonwealth Constitution.

As to the Matsumotos' claim for violation of the Consumer Protection Act, the judge said, CDA is a Commonwealth government agency, so the Consumer Protection Act does not apply.

With respect to Article 12 issue, Camacho said CDA's argument that the Matsumotos cannot challenge the deed in lieu of foreclosure because the couple accepted the benefits of the arrangement is unpersuasive.

Camacho said the Commonwealth observes the accepted benefits rule, which states that a party that accepts "the benefits of a void judgment cannot later challenge the judgment's validity."

However, here, the judge noted that the accepted benefits rule is inapplicable to the deed in lieu of foreclosure because applying the rule to these particular set of facts would violate Article 12, Section 2.

Camacho said any transaction that violates Article 12's restrictions is void from the start.

Here, the judge said, CDA's plan to obtain the land outlined in the deed in lieu of foreclosure via the accepted benefits rule violates Article 12, Section 1 because CDA is not a person of NMD.

The CNMI Supreme Court, he said, has made it clear that Article 12, Section 2 provides the only two exceptions to Article 12, Section 1.

"Because CDA is an entity of the Commonwealth government, it can only obtain land in the CNM by means of foreclosure," Camacho said.

The judge said to allow CDA to obtain land in the CNMI pursuant to the accepted benefits rule would in essence create a third exception to Article 12, Section 2.

Camacho said creating such an exception would be impermissible because the Supreme Court requires the strict enforcement of Article 12. Therefore, because of Article 12's restrictions, the accepted benefits rule is inapplicable.

Additionally, Camacho said, CDA's argument that a deed in lieu of foreclosure is enough to satisfy the foreclosure exception in Article 12, Section 2 is also unpersuasive.

Article 12, Section 2 allows for "a transfer to a mortgagee by means of a foreclosure on a mortgage."

Though the phrase "by means of foreclosure" is not defined by the Constitution, the word "foreclosure" is used in the Commonwealth statutes in a manner that provides helpful guidance, Camacho said.

For deeds in lieu of foreclosure to be included as part of Article 12, Section 2's exceptions, Article 12, Section 2 would have to have expressly provided that exception, he added.

Thus, he said, Article 12, Section 2 only allows for transfers that are the result of foreclosures that have gone through the judicial proceedings, not deeds in lieu of foreclosures.

On the claim for violation of the Consumer Protection Act, Camacho said, the statute makes it clear that "nothing in the Consumer Protection Act shall apply to actions or transactions carried out by the Commonwealth government…" and explicitly exempts Commonwealth agencies.

Under the plain language of the Consumer Protection Act, the statute does not apply to CDA, said Camacho.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH
Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signs the child abuse and neglect prevention proclamation last Thursday at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School.
ERWIN ENCINARES

Sales seminar set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions will be presenting Jeffrey Gitomer's *Little Red Book of Selling*, facilitated by Jim Arenovski, a Gitomer-licensed adviser.

Arenovski

The *Little Red Book of Selling* teaches salespeople how to win the sale by getting their prospects to value them the business—before they value the product or service.

With 25 years of experience, Arenovski will instruct the course with details relevant to the CNMI community. This training is for anyone in sales—route sales, wholesale, telecom, insurance—or other sales-related position. From the front line to supervisors to sales managers, this training will benefit anyone who has a product to sell.

Join top business members in this one-day seminar on Wednesday April 24, 2019, at Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall, from 8am to 5pm. The one-day event will include a breakfast spread and lunch. Participants will go home with training materials and a copy of Jeffrey Gitomer's *Little Red Book of Selling*. This training is valued at $799. Chamber members will enjoy a discounted price of $250 per person or $300 per person for non-Chamber members. Advance reservations are necessary and space is limited to the first 30 registrants. Reserve your spot today by calling the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Weintraub grateful for ruling but says damage is done

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former assistant attorney general Elizabeth "Betsy" Weintraub is grateful that the CNMI Supreme Court has ruled that she did not commit prosecutorial misconduct but said the findings will not undo the damage caused by online publication of the original orders.

"My hope is that, in the future, Superior Court judges will consider the serious professional and financial consequences for the attorney before publicly naming them like this," said Weintraub in an email last Thursday.

Weintraub, who now lives in the U.S. mainland, said she is very happy with the recent CNMI Supreme Court ruling, especially the high court's recognition of the serious consequences that this kind of sanction can have on an attorney's professional reputation.

Weintraub

The former AAG refers to the CNMI Supreme Court's ruling last week that overturned Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's finding that she committed prosecutorial misconduct during the jury trial of David James Aguon.

Weintraub said she is grateful for the "excellent work" of Joseph E. Horey, who served as her private counsel in her appeal to the high court.

"It was an honor for me to serve the people of the CNMI for two years but, unfortunately, my experience there was clouded by publication of two sanction orders, both of which have now been overturned. The appellate process took two years to complete," she said.

The second case refers to Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio's 2017 order that sanctioned Weintraub by requiring her to pay $500 to a non-profit organization in the CNMI that helpis sexually abused children.

In that case, Weintraub served as prosecutor in a sexual abuse of a minor case against a retired Army reservist.

Last January, the CNMI Supreme Court vacated Kim-Tenorio's order, citing that the judge's view of the law was "clearly erroneous" as she imposed sanction although she could not, and did not, find that Weintraub had acted in bad faith.

Weilbacher to undergo mental evaluation

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hitler Sam Weilbacher will undergo mental evaluation in May to determine whether he is competent enough to stand trial for allegedly stealing two vehicles.

During a status conference last Wednesday, acting chief prosecutor Heather Barcinas informed the court that their hired psychiatric expert will arrive either on the first or second week of May to conduct the evaluation on Weilbacher, 21.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho scheduled a follow-up status conference on July 17, 2019, to discuss the results of the evaluation.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, chief public Defender Doug Hartig, representing Weilbacher, asked the Superior Court back in 2017 to appoint California-based psychiatrist Dr. Martin Blinder or another forensic psychologist to perform a competency evaluation on Weilbacher.

Camacho granted Hartig's request but with the condition that the fee not exceed $1,500.

Hartig said that during a Nov. 17, 2017, hearing, Weilbacher appeared to have difficulty understanding the proceedings and was having difficulty communicating with him and Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan.

Hartig said he is of the opinion that Weilbacher cannot meaningfully assist in his own defense.

He disclosed that Weilbacher was diagnosed with mental illness earlier in 2017, and that Blinder found Weilbacher to be incompetent to stand trial in a previous criminal case.

Police arrested Weilbacher in Nov. 16, 2017, shortly after he allegedly stole a Toyota 4-Runner from a parking lot of a store on Capital Hill.

Police also arrested him in June 2017 at Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao, where a stolen Toyota Highlander was recovered and later returned to the owner.

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL HONOR'S LIST

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the 3rd Quarter President's List & Honor Roll.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

1st Grade
Adelle Jane Kautz
Amber Faith Militante
Ava Carmina Sablan
Cali Jade Cabrera
Chloe Anne Marie Matsunaga
Ezaela Patrice Camacho
Hyunseo Yun
Jayda Milan Torres
Kathleen Cano
Ki Eun Lee
Mikayla Guerrero
Paige Kanae Cabrera
Victoria Eve Terlaje
Von Derick Lauron

2nd Grade
Bella Deleon Guerrero
David Joseph Camacho
Gonshiro Pedro Jose Sasamoto
Jaze Enzo San Nicolas
Kainoa Tenorio
Logan Matsumoto
O-Ren Fumiyo Sasamoto
Zian Michael Obnimaga

3rd Grade
Andrea Fhe Remilloza
Aya Santos
Cecilia R. Villagomez
Do Geon Kim
Isabella Soledad Demapan
Jadine Nicole Pangelinan
Jayson Jared Tagabuel
Jessi Chen
Layla Carmen Ann Palacios
Remiegem Melchor

4th Grade
Akoni Matsumoto
Angel Jireh Tengco
Carly Kate Dela Cruz
Christopher James Dela Cruz
Enzo Umeki Sasamoto
Hiromi Rosa Sasamoto
Hope McQuay
Jeffrey Concepcion
Jose Clarence Tenorio
Jupri Torres
Justin Mallari
Kaden Christian Propst
Kesiil Camacho
Ki Won Lee
Leah Michel Lansangan
Maya Jae Jung
Maya McQuay
Michael Calvo
Naomi Skye Matsumoto
Nicole Angela Pangilinan
Patricia Matsumoto
Patrick Guerrero
Pedro Jose Tomokane
Sage R. Villagomez
Sarah Angela Melchor
Wayne Dominic Ano
Yukiko Kiyomi Sasamoto

5th Grade
Annieskha Arreza
Asa Vanessa Backe
Ayanna Faith Matsumoto
Camron Zavier Pangelinan
Chelsea Anne Sinkus
Jessiana Tenorio
Joseph Brandon Pangelinan
Lexi Marie Lansangan
Mya Pangelinan
Oscar Bien Buenaflor
Sophia Tenorio
Valerie Anne Estella
William Matthew Cano

6th Grade
Ari James Toskas
Arturo Rodrigo Travilla
Chelsy Anne Reyes
Davina Chae
Dylan Santos
Hitomi Rosa Sasamoto
Irene Kim
Irie Kane Camacho
Jada Chang
Jamie Lee
Kaeli Pathil
Laizza Vianca Mallari
Latisha Anne De Jesus
Maili Peter
Malina Rose Tenorio
Princes Amanda Habal
Tricia Antonnette Palacios
Vayden Matagolai

7th Grade
Brandon Lee
Earle Gabreil San Nicolas
Minki Jung
Paul Angelo Santos
Ruben Antonio Guerrero
Sua Kim
Tyana Kisha Tesiro

8th Grade
Brent Matthew Ortizo
Brissa Hunter
Donnie James Jr. Militante
Eric Oh
Jill Anne Marie Mallari
Kyla Monique Cabrera
Manuel Jacinto Pangelinan
Renee Kiser
Yurihana Rosa Sasamoto

Freshmen
Aleia Santos
Fiona Marielle Bucalig
Hannah Lacap
Jeffrey Sheu
Jeremiah Jerome Diaz
Kaia Travilla
Larry Dean Cruz
Monique Laura Duenas
Richard Jesus Villagomez
Robin Kyle Alvarez
Theresa Rose Schweiger
Vaughn Andrei Mallari
Victoria Ancheta

Sophomores
Brandee Hunter
Brian Youn
Carmille Perez
Connie Zhu
Katherine Avendano-Woodruff
Kevin Kang
Mikee Mame Mendoza
Puti'on Palacios-Camacho
Victoria Nicole Santos
Vince Philip Salvador
Xavier Gatmaitan

Juniors
Bom (Emmeline) Lee
Danielle Jaden Yamagata-Santos
Jan Matthew Millo
Jeffrey Chua
Jim Michael Ham
Kalea Lou Borja
Lleyton Andre Javier
Riley Anne Buenaventura

Seniors
Aldwin Ray Batusin
Angela Jun
Angelo Gabriel Manese
Christine Mago
Danishelle Faye Javillonar
Dayna Lou Macaranas
Eric Kiser
Eunseo Choi
Giselle Ivy Leong
Hyo Lim Cho
Jan Emmanuel Bobadilla
Joanie Paraiso
Justin Gerald Ocampo
Kalyn Diaz
Karen Sato
Louisa Sa Han
Maria Lael Terlaje
Matt Jason Moran
Minju Kang
Nichole Angelo Factor
Quincy Lenn Mikaila Chinen
Reica Jucel Ramirez
Rosalia Francine Pangelinan
Seo Yeon Lee
Seung Bin Bae
Tasilynn Camacho
Ydylle Faye Acosta

HONOR ROLL

Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

1st Grade
Chloe Cepeda
Heaven Agnes Deleon Guerrero
Jaelynn Lisua
Jeremy Terlaje
John Mateo Rabang
Krish Devjani
Lily Chantrea Lim
Manuel Villagomez
Reef Cole Reyes
Ruben III Tengco
Ye Lei (Bruce) Song

2nd Grade
Bentley James Albuen
Destiny Margarita Raynne Muna
Donald Laurence Amwolschigh Tagabuel
Miguel Garret Mendoza
Nea Zoe Dandan

3rd Grade
Arstin Itibwulschigh Tagabuel
Aubrey Rae Quitugua
Cassidee Jolina Flores
Cyril Michael Pangilinan
Francisco Maratita
Gabriella Aundrea Inos
Janessa Francine Arriola
Julius Sheu
Katherine Hwang
Kayla Larson

4th Grade
Christine Rosanne Castro
Frank Anthony Reyes
Julio Mellen Monserrat

5th Grade
Ainsley Ancheta
Andrick Poon
Chae Eun Kim
Gabin Kim
Gavril Myles Santiago
Heleyna Frielle Dela Santa
Jieun Kwon
Kai Manning
Lance Jericho Javier
Leonard Jake Regalado
Michael Mercado
Mikaehla Paige Mendoza
Peige Morgan Tomokane
Quince Emanuele Tizon

6th Grade
Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez
Aryana Carmen Taimanao
Audrein Jennifer Mallari
Breana Ysabel Patawaran
Claire Regina Kautz
Jada Monique Deleon Guerrero
Jalen Nicholas
Juncheol Hwang
Lyssa Rae Steele
Manuel Pamintuan
Nicole Erin Mariano
Quimari Liwerscheng Duenas
Rafael Mykel Gozon

7th Grade
Aiyana Jade Manglona
Andrew Sablan
Avah Marie Torres
Breanna Sue Mafnas
Camille Alannah Sablan
Devin Jordan Propst
Elisa Ellen Blanco
Elisha Joy Lacap
Ethan Jude Militante
Eunkyu (Joey) Hong
Franishia Jolie Babauta
Gwen Tiffany Gamab
Ierlyma Nicole Deleon Guerrero
IG Kamiya Nicole Obnimaga
Jazmin Jay Tagabuel
Jeery Chen
Jhazmyn Nhicole Valiente
Jonathan Sheu
Kaitlyn Punzalan
Keannalyn Angel Diaz
Kevin Jia Qi Bao
L'Wina Atalig
Leo Bang
Lezandra Miyuki Takayama
Maria Torres
Marini Millo
Mark Jainier Chavez
Mercedes Cruz
Natalie Gabrielle Ano
Palikkun George
Ranasia Bocago
Vincent Gunnar Castro

8th Grade
Francine Monique Albuen
Kayannie Peter
Keehara Nielsen Baldazo
Kexuan Yu
Kina Dela Cruz
Leo Naraja
Leunyce Regalado
Mathew Adrian Sablan
Moeisha Eleanor Cruz
Raphael Christian Galang
Sophia Michelle Cornelio

Freshmen
Alleah Marie Mendiola
Christian Felix Guerrero
Christopher Adam Mafnas
Cristina Bang
Esperanza Maria Milagro Castro
Hyun Jun Kim
HyunKyu Park
Isaac Brandt
Joshua Donovan Tenorio
Judy Bang
JunBeom Kim
Kiana Lei Propst
Lyndon Digno
Raesyl Gerard Solis
Richard Ramon Steele
Sajj Pandey
Sean sungmook Lee
SeongEon Heo
Taliyah Bocago
William Nathaniel Ano
Yu Jeong Son

Sophomores
Bernard Angelo Marcelo
Jieyu Lin
John Isaac San Nicolas
Maria Ayuyu
Mateo Guerrero
Nathanael Ryne Cunanan
Penelope Sablan
Raymalyn Guanlao
Reuben Christian Tomboc
Seungwoo (Raffy) Lee
Sinahi Ray Cepeda
Skyler Poon

Juniors
Casey Pathil
Francesca Marie Bucalig
Katelyn Rabang
Nicole Pak
Seongbin Heo
Vincent John Reyes
William Blake Deleon Guerrero

Seniors
Angelina Aldan
Anniea Saturno
Earl Daivick Tabora
Erika Gabrielle Cunanan
EunAh Kim
Gary Camacho
Rosa Castro
Suhwan Bae

Guam's WERI expands drinking water testing

The Water & Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific at the University of Guam can now offer its drinking water testing services for a wider range of contaminants.

With an extension of its Guam Environmental Protection Agency laboratory certification that it received in October, WERI's drinking water testing facility can now test for nitrates, nitrites, copper, and heterotrophic bacteria, in addition to lead and coliform bacteria, which it has offered testing services for since the 1990s.

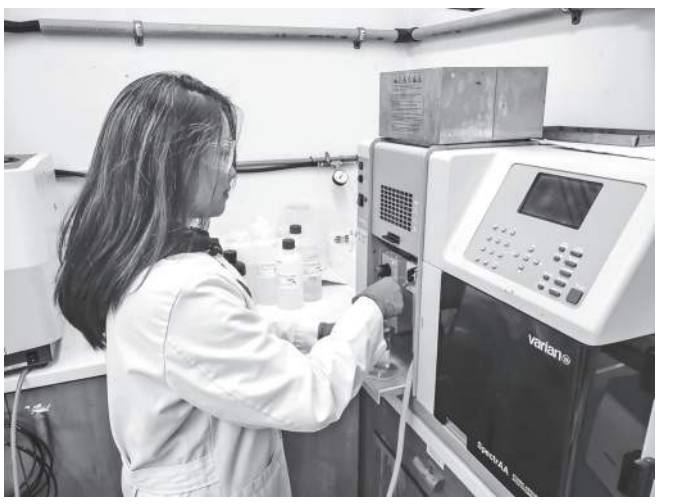
"We were doing the tests for many of those contaminants in the lab anyway," said Jennifer Cruz, manager of the Water Quality Analysis Laboratory at WERI, referring to testing being done to support faculty and student research. "But gaining the additional EPA certification means that we can perform those tests for clients and do it in a manner that is convenient and cost-effective for them."

The standard EPA certification is valid for three years.

Before the facility expanded its testing, clients had to send their drinking water samples to off-island labs, which presented not only an additional cost, but a challenge with time, as most of the tests need to be conducted within 24 to 48 hours of the sample being taken.

WERI provides testing for private construction companies, the Guam Waterworks Authority, military installations, and other organizations that must adhere to specific water standards, including businesses that provide food for airlines.

John Jenson, director of the Water & Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific, and Jennifer Cruz, manager of the Water Quality Analysis Laboratory at WERI.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



A lab assistant tests a water sample using an atomic absorption spectrophotometer, an analytical instrument used to test lead in drinking water.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The lab's water-testing capability is a significant source of revenue for the research facility. It conducts an average of 900 jobs and approximately 4,000 tests for clients each year.

The expanded testing capability is a valuable asset for both WERI and the University.

"If you're looking for a strategic asset that we have now and can build such capacity on, this is one of them," said John Jenson, director of WERI and professor of environmental geology.

Cruz has more plans to expand WERI's testing with each EPA certification renewal. One of WERI's faculty members is looking into testing for an organic compound that the lab does not test at this time.

"Our goal is to be able to apply organics testing to drinking water in the future," Cruz said.

WERI is one of 54 water resources research institutes established at land-grant universities throughout the United States. The institute is the main provider of water testing and research for public, private, and governmental sectors across Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. ***(UOG)***

The Water & Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific, located on the University of Guam campus, is the main provider of water testing and research in the Micronesian region.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

USCIS reaches FY 2020 H-1B regular cap

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received a sufficient number of petitions projected as needed to reach the congressionally-mandated 65,000 H-1B visa regular cap for fiscal year 2020. USCIS will next determine if we have received a sufficient number of petitions to meet the 20,000 H-1B visa U.S. advanced degree exemption, known as the master's cap.

The agency will reject and return filing fees for all unselected cap-subject petitions that are not prohibited multiple filings.

USCIS will continue to accept and process petitions that are otherwise exempt from the cap. Petitions filed for current H-1B workers who have been counted previously against the cap, and who still retain their cap number, are exempt from the FY 2020 H-1B cap. USCIS will continue to accept and process petitions filed to:

■ Extend the amount of time a current H-1B worker may remain in the United States;

■ Change the terms of employment for current H-1B workers;

■ Allow current H-1B workers to change employers; and

■ Allow current H-1B workers to work concurrently in a second H-1B positions.

U.S. businesses use the H-1B program to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations. ***(PR)***

Busines

May concedes Brexit deal won't pass 'in near future'

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Theresa May acknowledged that the government's strategies to get her Brexit deal approved in Parliament failed, saying Saturday there's little prospect lawmakers will back the thrice-rejected divorce agreement "in the near future."

With the U.K. once again days away from a deadline for leaving the European Union, May pressured opposition lawmakers to help her find a compromise agreement instead, saying voters "expect their politicians to work together when the national interest demands it."

After May's deal with the EU out for a third time in the House of Commons, the prime minister invited the opposition Labour Party this week to discuss alternatives. But three days of talks ended with no agreement and the left-of-center Labour accusing May's Conservative government of not offering real change.

"I haven't noticed any great change in the government's position so far," Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said Saturday. "I'm waiting to see the red lines move."

Labour favors a softer form of Brexit than the government has advocated. The party says Britain should remain closely bound to EU trade rules and maintain the bloc's standards in areas such as workers' rights and environmental protection.

Britain is due to leave the EU on Friday unless May can secure another delay from the EU, which already agreed to postpone the Brexit day originally set for March 29.

May now is asking for Britain's departure to be pushed back until June 30, hoping to reach a compromise with Labour and a deal through Parliament in a matter of weeks.

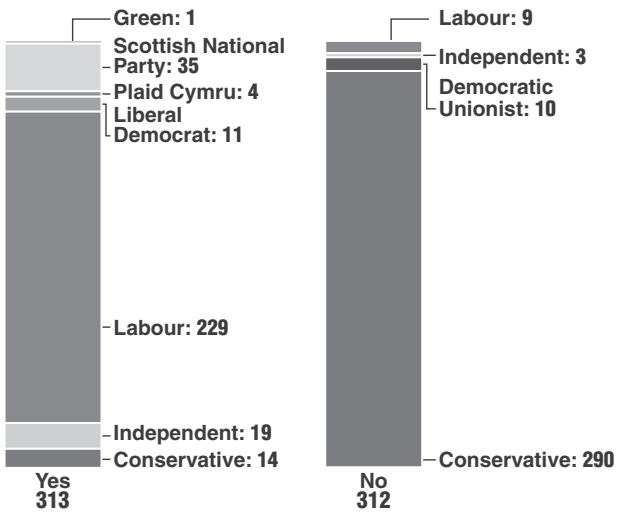
"The longer this takes, the greater the risk of the U.K. never leaving at all," May said in a statement.

But EU leaders favor a longer delay to avoid another round of cliff-edge preparations and politics. And they say the U.K. needs to put forward a concrete plan to end the stalemate to get any further postponement.

An extension requires unanimous approval from the 27 remaining leaders, some of whom are fed up with Brexit uncertainty and reluctant to prolong it further.

Brexit delay vote

The House of Commons voted Wednesday to pass a bill that would instruct the prime minister to request an extension for the Brexit deadline.



Source: House of Commons

Graphic: Tribune News Service

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing cutting production rate of troubled 737 Max jet

Boeing will cut production of its troubled 737 Max airliner this month, underscoring the growing financial risk it faces the longer that its best-selling plane remains grounded after two deadly crashes. The company said Friday that starting in mid-April it will cut production of the plane to 42 from 52 planes per month so it can focus its attention on fixing the flight-control software that has been implicated in the crashes. The move was not a complete surprise. Boeing had already suspended deliveries of the Max last month after regulators around the world grounded the jet. Preliminary reports into accidents in Indonesia and Ethiopia found that faulty sensor readings erroneously triggered an anti-stall system that pushed the plane's nose down. Pilots of each plane struggled in vain to regain control over the automated system. In all, 346 people died in the crashes. Boeing faces a growing number of lawsuits filed by families of the victims. ***(AP)***

China news agency: 'New progress' in US trade talks

WASHINGTON (AP)—China's official news agency says U.S.-Chinese trade talks "achieved new progress" in Washington this week and remaining issues will be handled through "various effective means." The terse statement by Xinhua on Saturday did not say where or when further discussions will happen. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement Friday that "significant work remains" and the two sides would be in continuous contact. Xinhua said the three-day talks that ended Friday dealt with issues including technology transfer, intellectual property rights protection, non-tariff measures, agriculture and enforcement. Leading the delegations were U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He. Beijing and Washington are working to end a standoff that has shaken financial markets and darkened the world economic outlook.

Tree-sitters have been protesting pipeline for 200-plus days

ROANOKE, Va. (AP)—Tree-sitters protesting the construction of a natural gas pipeline in Virginia have been at it now for more than 200 days. The Roanoke Times reported Thursday that two people have continually occupied tree stands since early September. They're sitting where construction is planned for the Mountain Valley Pipeline in western Virginia near the West Virginia border. The tree-sitting protesters replace each other over time. A group that has helped organize the effort is Appalachians Against Pipelines. It says the protest is now the longest active blockade of a natural gas pipeline on the East Coast. Attorneys for the pipeline have filed requests in federal court to be able to remove the protesters. A federal judge is yet to rule on the request.

Nation

Trump: Migrants straining system

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Declaring "our country is full," President Donald Trump on Friday insisted the U.S. immigration system was overburdened and illegal crossings must be stopped as he inspected a refurbished section of fencing at the Mexican border.

AP

President Donald Trump smiles as he is applauded as he arrives to speak at the Republican Jewish Coalition's annual leadership meeting, Saturday April 6, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Trump, making a renewed push for border security as a central campaign issue for his 2020 re-election, participated in a briefing on immigration and border security in Calexico before viewing a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) see-through steel-slat barrier that was a long-planned replacement for an older barrier — and not new wall.

"There is indeed an emergency on our southern border," Trump said at the briefing, adding that there has been a sharp uptick in illegal crossings. "It's a colossal surge and it's overwhelming our immigration system, and we can't let that happen. ... We can't take you anymore. We can't take you. Our country is full."

As Air Force One touched down in the state, California and 19 other states that are suing Trump over his emergency declaration to build a border wall requested a court order to stop money from being diverted to fund the project. But Trump, who ratcheted up his hard-line immigration rhetoric in recent weeks, declared that his move, which included vetoing a congressional vote, was necessary.

Also on Friday, House Democrats filed a lawsuit preventing Trump from spending more money than Congress has approved to erect barriers along the southwestern border. Congress approved just under $1.4 billion for work on border barricades. Trump has asserted he can use his powers as chief executive to transfer an additional $6.7 billion to wall construction.

Trump, who earlier in the week threatened to shut down the border over the high numbers of migrants trying to enter the U.S., appeared to walk back his comments Thursday. He said Friday that it was because Mexico had gotten tougher in stopping an influx of immigrants from moving north.

"Mexico has been absolutely terrific for the last four days," the president said as he left the White House. "I never changed my mind at all. I may shut it down at some point."

The president's visit came a day after he withdrew his nominee to lead U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Longtime border official Ron Vitiello appeared to be cruising toward confirmation, but Trump said Friday that he wanted to go in a "tougher direction."

US wants 2 years to ID migrant kids separated from families

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Trump administration wants up to two years to find potentially thousands of children who were separated from their families at the border before a judge halted the practice last year, a task that it says is more laborious than previous efforts because the children are no longer in government custody.

The Justice Department said in a court filing late Friday that it will take at least a year to review about 47,000 cases of unaccompanied children taken into government custody between July 1, 2017 and June 25, 2018 — the day before U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw halted the general practice of splitting families. The administration would begin by sifting through names for traits most likely to signal separation — for example, children under 5.

The administration would provide information on separated families on a rolling basis to the American Civil Liberties Union, which sued to reunite families and criticized the proposed timeline on Saturday.

"We strongly oppose a plan that could take up to two years to locate these families," said Lee Gelernt, the ACLU's lead attorney. "The government needs to make this a priority."

Sabraw ordered last year that more than 2,700 children in government care on June 26, 2018 be reunited with their families, which has largely been accomplished. Then, in January, the U.S. Health and Human Services Department's internal watchdog reported that thousands more children may have been separated since the summer of 2017. The department's inspector general said the precise number was unknown.

The judge ruled last month that he could hold the government accountable for families that were separated before his June order and asked the government submit a proposal for the next steps. A hearing is scheduled April 16.

Sheer volume makes the job different than identifying children who were in custody at the time of the judge's June order, Jonathan White, a commander of the U.S. Public Health Service and Health and Human Services' point person on family reunification, said in an affidavit.

White, whose work has drawn strong praise from the judge, would lead the effort to identify additional families on behalf of Health and Health and Human Services with counterparts at Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement. Dr. Barry Graubard, a statistics expert at the National Cancer Institute, developed a system to flag for early attention those most likely to have been separated.

The vast majority of separated children are released to relatives, but many are not parents. Of children released in the 2017 fiscal year, 49 percent went to parents, 41 percent to close relatives such as an aunt, uncle, grandparent or adult sibling and 10 percent to distant relatives, family friends and others.

Asia

Duterte warns of 'revolutionary' government, arrest of his critics

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president, in his latest outburst against critics, warned he would declare a "revolutionary government" and arrest his detractors if he is pushed against the wall.

President Rodrigo Duterte made the threat late Thursday in a speech in which he expressed exasperation with criticism while trying to fight criminality. Duterte has been known for provocative remarks, which his spokesmen have often downplayed as hyperbole.

"I have enough problems with criminality, drugs, rebellion and all, but if you push me to the extreme, I will declare the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus and I will arrest all of you," Duterte said, adding that he is willing to face the consequences. "I am willing to be hanged. I'm willing to die."

Duterte's threat drew concern from democracy and human rights advocates.

Duterte

Former Commission on Human Rights chairwoman Loretta Ann Rosales said the country's 1987 constitution guarantees freedom of speech, including criticism of officials. She said habeas corpus, which requires the state to justify a citizen's detention, can only be suspended during specific contingencies such as war or dictatorship.

"The president should know that employing tactics from the Marcos playbook does not end well," Rosales said, referring to Ferdinand Marcos, the late Philippine dictator who was ousted in a 1986 popular revolt.

Opposition Sen. Risa Hontiveros said Duterte should confront China over its increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed South China Sea instead of threatening civil liberties. "Instead of standing up to China's aggression, President Duterte threatens his own people with warrantless arrests and war," Hontiveros said.

Duterte acknowledged the term "revolutionary government" wasn't clearly defined, but said that it "usually happens when there is a military coup or (the) president goes against his own government."

Known for his expletive-laced speeches, Duterte has been especially sensitive to criticism of his crackdown on illegal drugs, which has left more than 5,000 people dead in clashes police say occurred when suspects fought back. Western governments and human rights groups have expressed alarm over the killings and sought an independent investigation.

Duterte has denied ordering extrajudicial killings but has repeatedly threatened drug dealers with death.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India weighs ban on popular online game after deaths

NEW DELHI (AP)—A boy's suicide this week in southern India after his mother scolded him for playing a popular online game has inflamed a national debate over whether the game should be banned. The 16-year-old's father demanded a ban on PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds, known by the acronym PUBG, after his son hanged himself from a ceiling fan at their Hyderabad home following a reprimand for wasting time online rather than studying for an English exam, according to Indian news reports. At the heart of the conflict in India is a cultural norm: Parents expect their children, many of whom live with them well into adulthood, to concentrate on academics and professional pursuits. And supporters of a ban say the game can be a deadly distraction. In March, two men in their twenties playing the game on their phones near railway tracks in Maharasthra state were killed by an oncoming train, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. PUBG is a survival game developed by a South Korean company in which players are dropped onto an island and have to eliminate each other.

3 hostages escape Muslim militants in Philippines, 1 drowns

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Three hostages held by Muslim militants in the southern Philippines have made a daring escape that left one drowned, another shot in the back in critical condition and another safe after swimming to his freedom, officials said. The two Indonesians and one Malaysian separately escaped while Philippine marines were attempting to rescue them on Simusa island in southern Sulu province over the last two days, regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Gerry Besana said Saturday. The dramatic escapes leave at least three more hostages in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, which is blacklisted by the United States and the Philippines as a terrorist organization due to its brutal history of bombings, ransom kidnappings, extortion and beheadings. The remaining captives include a Dutch bird watcher, Elwold Horn, who was kidnapped by the militants in 2012, and two Filipinos. One of the Indonesians, Heri Ardiansyah, was plucked from the waters by marines on board a gunboat while they recovered the body of his companion, Hariadin, who drowned. The marines gunned down three Abu Sayyaf captors who were trying to chase the two Indonesians at sea, military officials said.

Leader of new Thai political party charged with sedition

BANGKOK (AP)—The leader of a popular new Thai political party that ran a strong third in last month's general election was formally charged with sedition on Saturday and expressed concern that he is to be tried in a military court. Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit was greeted by hundreds of supporters chanting "Keep fighting, Thanathorn!" as he arrived at a Bangkok police station to answer a summons on complaints of sedition, assisting criminals and illegal assembly filed by a member of the country's ruling military junta. He denied the charges, which carry a prison sentence of up to nine years. "I'm concerned because this case is under the military court instead of the criminal court," Thanathorn, leader of the Future Forward Party, told reporters. "That is quite unsettling." While he said he was treated fairly by police, he maintained his innocence. He said "many citizens in Thailand" have been charged with sedition, "including those who have not received any public attention." "The regime creates fear for society to silence us," Thanathorn said. "I insist I am innocent and I am ready to stand firm in the court proceedings. I urge all Thais and the international community to call for civil rights ... for the betterment of our society."

World

IF RE-ELECTED

Netanyahu to annex West Bank settlements

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged Saturday to annex Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank if re-elected, a dramatic policy shift apparently aimed at rallying his nationalist base in the final stretch of the tight race.

AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures while speaking to Russian President Vladimir Putin during their meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, April 4, 2019.

Netanyahu has promoted Jewish settlement expansion in his four terms as prime minister, but until now refrained from presenting a detailed vision for the West Bank, seen by the Palestinians as the heartland of a future state.

An Israeli annexation of large parts of the West Bank is bound to snuff out any last flicker of hope for an Israeli-Palestinian deal on the terms of a Palestinian state on lands Israel captured in 1967.

A so-called two-state solution has long been the preferred option of most of the international community. However, intermittent U.S. mediation between Israelis and Palestinians ran aground after President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital early in his term. The Palestinians, who seek Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem as their capital, suspended contact with the U.S.

More recently, Trump recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, a plateau Israel captured from Syria in 1967. The move was viewed in Israel as a political gift by Trump to Netanyahu who is being challenged by former military chief Benny Gantz.

The U.S. State Department declined to comment on Netanyahu's statement.

Polls have indicated a close race, though Netanyahu's Likud Party is expected to have a better chance than Gantz's Blue and White slate to form a ruling coalition. Polls forecast more than 60 out of 120 parliament seats for the Likud and smaller right-wing and ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties

On Saturday, Netanyahu gave an interview to Israel's Channel 12 TV at the top of the prime-time newscast. Netanyahu portrayed the U.S. policy shifts on Jerusalem and the Golan Heights as his achievements, saying he had managed to persuade Trump to take these steps.

Netanyahu pledged that he would not dismantle a single Jewish settlement and that Israel would retain control of the territory west of the Jordan River—the West Bank. More than 600,000 Israelis now live on war-won lands, two-thirds in the West Bank.

Venezuela street rallies show deep divide in power struggle

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Rival political factions took to the streets across Venezuela on Saturday in a mounting struggle for control of the crisis-wracked nation, where U.S.- backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó is attempting to oust socialist President Nicólas Maduro.

It was the first march Guaidó has led since Maduro loyalists stripped him of legal protections he's granted as a congressman, opening a path to prosecute and possibly arrest him for allegedly violating the constitution.

The rallies also follow crippling power failures that left most of the country scrambling in the dark for days and without running water or phone service, which Maduro blamed on "terrorists" acts launched by political opponents.

Speaking before several thousand people who packed a broad Caracas avenue, Guaidó urged them to stay united and to keep up pressure until Maduro leaves power.

"Something is evident today," Guaidó said. "Venezuela is not afraid and continues taking the streets until we achieve freedom."

Guaidó tried to channel Venezuelans' ire by calling crowds in the capital to march to the headquarters of the national power utility, Corpoelec. His supporters said the blackout is another failure of the socialist government.

"This regime has made big mistakes," said Beatriz Cisneros, a 62, critical of Venezuela's deteriorated petroleum industry, its broken educational system and hospitals that fail to provide basic care. "We're fighting for Venezuela to have liberty."

Many opposition supporters marched along a sunny main avenue carrying Venezuelan flags. A nun draped the national colors around her shoulders. Another protester carried a sign listing the lack of power, water and other basic services, along with the slogan: "Don't get used to it."

Across the country in Maracaibo, the hub of Venezuela's once-thriving oil production, members of the National Guard fired tear gas at anti-government protesters, causing some injuries, local media reported. The area has been among those hardest hit by blackouts over the past two years.

Meanwhile, large crowds of Maduro backers, many dressed in bright red and gathered in the center of Caracas, waved flags and danced to blasting music as they marched to the presidential palace.

Maduro made a new call for dialogue toward reaching peace in Venezuela with help from the fellow Latin American countries, including Mexico and Uruguay. But he also against accused his opponents inside Venezuela of staging attacks and said they should stop.

"Do you believe that through terrorism you will achieve political power?" Maduro said. "Never! Not with electric terrorism, not with political terrorism, not with mercenary terrorism. No!"

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Workouts for each fitness goal from weight loss to finding your abs

By RASHA ALI
TNS

Getting fit is easy, they said. All you have to do is work out, they said.

But what am I supposed to do when I get to the gym? Do I pick up a barbell or do I run? I should just get on the treadmill, right?

There are so many questions when it comes to getting fit and working out. Did you know that there are different workout programs for different goals? Like if you want to build muscle mass, you can't do the same program as someone whose primary goal is to lose weight.

And apparently you can't just work out, you have to eat right, too. Nutrition is crucial when it comes to seeing the results of the work you're putting in.

And according to US News & World Report, this is the time when a majority of people are starting to fail on their New Year's resolutions, which often includes "exercising more."

But breathe, it's going to be OK. We've spoken to fitness experts who gave us their best tips on which workout routines to do for your specific goals. Want to lose weight? We got you. Want to build your endurance? No problem.

Workouts for weight loss

Almost half of Americans said they've tried to lose weight in the past 12 months, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Losing weight can be hard to do, especially with Doughnut Thursdays at the office (I'm looking at you USA TODAY newsroom).

Austin Dotson, a certified personal trainer, says the best workout program for that is "CONSISTENCY." Yes, he emailed this in all caps. Where can I buy that exercise routine? Do they have it at Target?

The trainer says keeping your mind focused on why you started working out in the first place is one of the most important things to weight loss. Don't fall off when it gets tough;that's when you need to push yourself the most.

When it comes to the physical labor, Dotson loves jumping rope for exercise.

"Jumping rope is a great cardiovascular exercise that will get the heart rate soaring through the roofs," said Dotson. "I would also recommend mountain climbers. Great tool for getting a stronger core as well as increasing the heart weight for fat loss."

Seymour suggests hitting the weight room to shed some extra pounds because having muscle boosts your metabolism, so the more muscles you're building, the more calories you're burning.

Workouts to build muscle

If you want to build muscle, you're going to have to pick up a barbell or 10 so get comfortable with the weight room in your gym.

Osamoje Imoohi, a certified personal trainer, recommends people add weight-resistance training into their workout routines and to target each body part throughout the week.

Lunges with weights, push-ups with weights and arm raises with weights would all be good weight-resistance training.

That means focus on training your legs for one day, train your arms the next day and move on to back workouts the day after. He suggests doing this to build a balanced and complete physique.

"I would highly recommend doing compound exercises, these are exercises that work several muscle groups at the same time," said Imoohi. "They trigger muscle growth. Bench press, squats, deadlifts and overhead presses are all examples of compound exercises."

Workouts to tone muscle

No one really knows what "toning" means; it's just a word that's thrown around when people want their bodies to look like Gabrielle Union or Beyoncé.

"Frankly, 'toning up' is a myth we've been fighting against for a decade," said Kristen Seymour, who is co-owner of fitness website Fit Bottomed Girls and a triathlon coach. "What people generally mean when they say this is that they want to get leaner and build some muscle—or that they want to look like the celebrity with the awesome arms on the cover of some magazine."

Both Imoohi and Jennipher Walters, the other co-owner of Fit Bottomed Girls, suggest doing high-intensity interval training workouts, which consist of exercises that you do at very high intensity for a short period of time with little rest recovery as opposed to jogging on the treadmill for an hour.

Walters says that classes like CrossFit can include HIIT workouts, but not every CrossFit class will be entirely comprised of HIIT exercises.

"They both offer cycles of exercises," said Walters. "Lest anyone get bored in a class, both of these exercise styles keep it fresh and exciting by moving quickly between activities."

Imoohi suggests running, swimming, boxing or cycling at least three times a week for 30 to 45 minutes at a time in addition to your HITT workouts.

"In terms of choosing what kind of activity to do, it's pretty much always a great idea to incorporate a nice mix of workouts throughout the week," said Walters. "Some HIIT, some weights, functional mobility work and recovery. This helps you build the muscle you're looking for while still maintaining good cardiovascular health and flexibility."

I just want abs

Good news, according to Dotson we all already have them.

WHERE?!

"Believe it or not, we all have abs," said Dotson. "Abs are really determined on the percentage of body fat a person has. If you are unable to see your abs, it's not because you can't get them, it's because they are hidden behind layers of fat."

OK, wonderful, so my abs are just hidden underneath a few months' worth of donuts (ahem Doughnut Thursdays).

In order to see your abs, it means you have to drop some body fat, which can be done with all of the exercises listed above. Dotson says you'll have to be in a caloric deficit, so burn more calories than you consume.

"In order for a person to obtain the wash-board abs they are looking for or even to semi have them appear (everyone is different), they will need to combine a HEALTHY diet, cardio, weights, resistance training and a calorie deficit," the trainer said in an email.

To drop body fat, it's essential to mix in cardio like running on a treadmill, jumping rope or HIIT exercises with weight and resistance training. So do push-ups, lunges, squats and bench press with weights.

Good nutrition is key

Regardless of all the work you put in at the gym, nothing will work unless your nutrition is on point. You have to put in as much effort (if not more) into your diet as you do your workouts.

"Nutrition is fundamental. Individuals looking to lose fat and gain muscle should drink lots of water, consume protein, and avoid processed sugars/unhealthy fats," said Imoohi.

"It doesn't matter how much you work out, if you aren't eating a balanced healthy diet, you will never get the results you desire," Dotson added.

"Eighty percent of our fitness journeys will come from nutrition," said the fitness trainer. "The other 20 percent is the effort you put into the gym. Cutting out process foods, sugar, sodium and fried fatty foods."

You could be in the gym every day and you still won't see the results you want if you're not eating right.

Life & Style

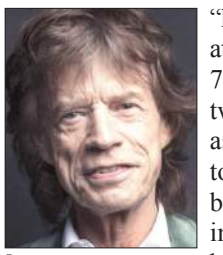
Rep: Jagger doing well after receiving medical treatment

NEW YORK (AP)—A representative for Mick Jagger says he has successfully undergone treatment, though no details were provided.

In a statement released Friday, Jagger's rep says he "is doing very well and is expected to make a full recovery."

Jagger thanked his supporters and the hospital that treated him in a tweet Friday.

"Thank you everyone for all your messages of support, I'm feeling much better now and on the mend—and also a huge thank you to all the hospital staff for doing a superb job," he wrote.


Jagger

Last week the Rolling Stones announced they were postponing their latest tour so Jagger can receive medical treatment.

Jagger was told by doctors "he cannot go on tour at this time" and the 75-year-old Jagger tweeted, "I'm devastated for having to postpone the tour but I will be working very hard to be back on stage as soon as I can."

The Stones' No Filter Tour was expected to start April 20 in Miami.

Prosecutor defends dropping charges

By DON BABWIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago prosecutor whose office dismissed charged against Jussie Smollett defended the decision on Saturday, saying the "Empire" actor was treated no differently than thousands of other defendants whose charges were similarly dropped since she took office.

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx made the comments during a defiant and emotional address at the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.'s Rainbow Push Coalition. Foxx openly wondered if her race had something to do with the harsh criticism she's faced since her office announced that charges against Smollett had been dropped. The actor was accused of staging what he claimed to be a racist and homophobic attack in January.

"I have been asking myself for the last two weeks what is this really about," she said. "As someone who has lived in this city, who came up in the projects of this city to serve as the first African American woman in this role, it is disheartening to me ... that when we get in these positions somehow the goalposts change."

Foxx, who recused herself from the case after she communicating with a Smollett relative during the probe, reiterated that she welcomes of an independent investigation into the way she and her office handled the case. She also reminded the audience that her office did the same thing for the nearly 6,000 low-level defendants who had their charges dropped with "deferred prosecution" during her tenure.

Henson and Hadid give emotional remarks at Variety honors event

NEW YORK (AP)—Taraji P. Henson teared up as she discussed suicide rates among young black people. Gigi Hadid did the same as she spoke about the fate of the Rohingya people in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Henson

The two were among five celebrities honored Friday for their philanthropic work at Variety's annual Power of Women event in New York.

Bette Midler spoke passionately about her restoration work cleaning up neighborhoods in New York City through the organization she founded in 1995. Singer Kacey Musgraves talked about the importance of arts education for young people, particularly music.

And journalist Christiane Amanpour evoked the grave dangers faced by reporters uncovering truths around the world, and especially decried the use of the term "fake news" as a weapon against journalists.

"Increasingly we are in a war from within our own democratic societies where we are bludgeoned over the head day after day by this untruthful trope of fake news. It is very, very difficult to keep going," she said.

Honored for her work with the Committee to Protect Journalists, Amanpour made a note of praising Jacinda Ardern, prime minister of New Zealand, for her leadership in the wake of the recent mass shooting in Christchurch in which 50 people died.

"Out of the most brutal and unspeakable tragedy, she rose to the occasion like I've seen very few world leaders do," she said of Ardern. "That's power."

The annual event was hosted by comedian Michelle Wolf, who riffed on recent news stories like the college admissions scandal and accusations of unwanted touching by former vice president Joe Biden.

Also appearing at the event were several accusers of R&B star R. Kelly who had participated in the Lifetime documentary "Surviving R. Kelly." Lisa Van Allen, Asante McGee and Kitti Jones received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Hadid, introduced by Jimmy Fallon, was honored for her work with UNICEF. The 23-year-old supermodel spoke not only about her experience in Bangladesh visiting Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, but her use of social media as a force for good.

"I feel resentment toward social media at times, but as I documented my trip with UNICEF, I understood the true value: someone is listening," she said.

"We cannot let the negative comments, the bad energy, and false assumptions of us keep us from doing the good we know we can do with our platforms."

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

†Kern Francis Deleon Pangelinan

In his new life, he now joins his:
Paternal Grandparents: †Henry Sablan & Monica (Hideko) Koyama Pangelinan
Maternal Grandparents: †Francisco Pangelinan & Dolores Cruz Deleon
Uncles & Aunties: †Damiana Koyama Pangelinan
†Edward Francis & Asencion B. Deleon
†Joseph Koyama Pangelinan
†Tommy Flores
†Regina and Aniceto Galveo
†Angelo Sablan
†Tomas Rueb

His loving and wonderful memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Parents: Frederick Koyama & Leonora Isabel Deleon Pangelinan

Siblings and In-laws:
Frederick A. & Margaret Bertha Pangelinan:
Nicole Pangelinan, Britney Pangelinan, Mya Pangelinan, Tawny Palacios & Greg Jin Arriola, Jerome Palacios, Blair Palacios & Ken Taguchi (Brayden), Sharon Palacios
Mark D. & Vilma Pangelinan:
Levonne Pangelinan & Edwin, Jovaughn Pangelinan & Grace, Jonah Pangelinan & Loryann, Katsutoshi Pangelinan & Selena, Christine Pangelinan & Ryan
Duanne P. Pangelinan & Laura Ann T. Deleon Guerrero:
Adrian C. Pangelinan, Christian C. Pangelinan, Georalyn Blas, Keoki Blas, George Blas, Jr., Autumn D'Ann DLG. Pangelinan
Christopher D. Pangelinan
Monica D. Pangelinan
Christina P. & Joey John San Nicholas Taitano:
Ava Kaori Pangelinan Taitano

Uncles & Aunties:
Ruth Deleon Flores & Family
Diana Deleon Sablan & Family
Marcia D. & Edward Mendiola & Family
Marie Antonette D. & Tony Mendiola & Family
Edna D. & Herbert C. Cruz & Family
Roland C. & Jane M. Deleon & Family
Connielynn Manglona & David Camacho & Family
Kartrinalynn Manglona & Carlos Henriquez & Family
Maria Aguon Pangelinan & Family
Ernesta Pangelinan Rueb & Family
Mariano K. & Soledad C. Pangelinan & Family
Vicente K. Pangelinan & Family
Vivian P. & Joaquin B. Cruz & Family
Alfred K. & Cecilia P. Pangelinan & Family
Paul K. & Maria C. Pangelinan & Family
Henry Jr. K. & Rebecca F. Pangelinan & Family
Norman K. & Cynthia C. Pangelinan & Family
George K. & Evelyn M. Pangelinan & Family
Cynthia P. Pangelinan & Family
Glenn M. Pangelinan & Family
James M. Pangelinan & Family
Michelle M. Pangelinan-Clark & Family
Evonne M. Pangelinan & Family
Peter Pangelinan & Family
Evelyn P. Pangelinan-King & Miles King & Family
Nida Pangelinan & Family

†Kern will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephew, great nieces, great nephews, god children and friends.

Mass for his reposed soul is being offered daily at St. Jude Church at 6:00pm.

†Kern will be with us for the last time on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. He will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am and visitations and last respects are welcomed at 8:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by internment services at the Veteran's Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase for all your thoughts and prayers.

Frederick K. Et Leonora D. Pangelinan Et Family

Avengers help unveil $5M donation for seriously ill children

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

AP
"Avengers: Endgame" cast members, Paul Rudd, from left, Scarlett Johansson, Robert Downey Jr., Robert Iger, Brie Larson, Chris Hemsworth and Jeremy Renner appear at an event announcing the Universe Unites Charity at Disney California Adventure Park on Friday, April 5, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Some of Marvel's top Avengers have assembled to support a $5 million donation to benefit seriously ill children in hospitals around the globe.

Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Paul Rudd and Brie Larson helped unveil the donation of money and toys to benefit charities and children's hospitals at Disney Resort in Anaheim, California, on Friday.

"More than any time, it's a time to give back to these courageous kids who inspire us," said Downey Jr., who stars as Tony Stark aka Iron Man.

After the announcement, several of the "Avengers: Endgame" stars—including Johansson, Renner, Rudd and Hemsworth—visited kids from the local Boys & Girls Clubs to play at the LEGO store in downtown Disney, where toys with their characters' likenesses were unveiled.

"It's not a bad day in the office when you get to come to Disneyland," said Johansson, who plays Black Widow. "I've been a huge fan of Disney for like forever. I come from a big, Disney loving family. To be here with my fellow Avengers and all these kids, it's just great. It's such a great way to spend the day."

Toys and products from the new Marvel superhero film will be sent to children's hospitals throughout the country as well as Give Kids the World, a non-profit resort in central Florida.

Disney donated $1 million to the Starlight Children's Foundation, which brings entertainment and education to children facing life-threatening conditions in several countries, including the United States and Great Britain. The LEGO group, Hasbro, Funko and Amazon collaborated to donate more than $4 million to children's hospitals around the country.

Rudd, who stars as Ant-Man, said he is grateful to be a part of the initiative. The actor said he has worked closely to help raise money for the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

"I'm grateful and touched to be a part of this group," Rudd said. "I work with a lot of kids and families. It's not just the kids. It's the entire family. The parents, the brothers, the sisters. This is a real honor to give back. I would like to say the Ant-Man toy is particularly small. So when you're walking around barefoot, just be careful. It's a little bit like stepping on a LEGO."

Charles, William, Harry: 3 princes help launch 'Our Planet'

LONDON (AP)—A new eight-part Netflix series chronicling life on Earth and the threat posed by climate change has received a royal sendoff at London's Natural History Museum.

Prince Charles lauded the "Our Planet" series and its narrator David Attenborough at the world premiere Thursday night. He was joined by sons Prince William and Prince Harry.

Charles praised Attenborough, 92, for helping to "lift the veil of ignorance from our eyes about the intricate and integrated beauty of our home."

He also said he is proud of his sons William and Harry for sharing his passion for working to restore "the balance of nature," joking that he thought they had been ignoring him when he told them about the importance of the natural world but found out when they reached adulthood that they had actually been listening.

The ambitious Netflix series, produced in conjunction with the World Wildlife Fund and Silverback Films, was four years in the making and involved 600 crew members filming in 50 countries and on each continent.

The first segment featured astonishing footage detailing the variety of the world's wildlife and chronicling the sound and fury as 75 million tons of glacial ice collapsed into the sea off Greenland.

Introducing the series, Attenborough cited Charles Darwin's warnings that "we break nature's connections at our peril."

On a more positive note, the longtime TV broadcaster—who was speaking directly beneath the museum's celebrated skeleton of a blue whale—said the population of many types of whales are recovering after prolonged periods of decline.

"What we did to save the whales we must do for all of nature," Attenborough said.

■■■

This story has been corrected to show that the name of the group is World Wildlife Fund.

Man charged with killing Nipsey Hussle pleads not guilty

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man charged with killing rapper Nipsey Hussle was ordered held on $5 million bail after pleading not guilty Thursday to murder and attempted murder charges.

Eric R. Holder Jr., 29, making his first court appearance after Sunday's shooting and subsequent two-day manhunt, spoke only to say "yeah" to Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Teresa Sullivan's questions.

His attorney, Christopher Darden, did not dispute the bail amount, which the prosecution requested. Darden declined comment after the hearing.

Holder is charged with murder and two counts of attempted murder in connection with the attack outside Hussle's The Marathon clothing store on Sunday that left the rapper dead and two other men wounded.

No additional details about motive were released during Thursday's hearing.

Darden, who gained nationwide fame as part of the prosecution team at O.J. Simpson's 1995 murder trial, argued before the hearing against allowing media outlets to shoot photos and video in the courtroom, saying that the prosecution has not established with certainty that they have the right person, and publicizing his image would interfere with Holder getting a fair trial.

"The issue of identity is still in question," Darden said.

Deputy District Attorney John McKinney argued that identity will not be an issue in the case, and said that Holder's photo had already been widely spread during the hunt for him.

Sullivan ruled that the cameras could remain.

Holder and Hussle, who knew each other, had several conversations throughout the day Sunday before Holder eventually returned with a handgun and shot Hussle, authorities allege.

If convicted, Holder faces life in prison.

In 2012 he pleaded no contest to possession of a loaded firearm and was sentenced to six months in jail and three years' probation. The case filed Thursday includes a charge that he was a felon in possession of a gun during the attack on Hussle.

He was ordered to return to court for another hearing May 10.

Holder fled the scene in a car driven by a woman who has since been interviewed by police and released, police Lt. Chris Ramirez said.

Hussle, 33, was engaged to actress Lauren London, with whom he had a 2-year-old son. He had another daughter from a previous relationship.

He was a beloved figure in the community that he was seeking to rebuild starting with his clothing store, among his fellow entertainers, and with public officials who praised his philanthropy and advocacy.

Fans mourn grunge rock icon Kurt Cobain 25 years after death anniv.

SEATTLE (AP)—On the 25th anniversary of Kurt Cobain's death, dozens of people left flowers, candles and handwritten messages at a Seattle park near the house where the Nirvana frontman killed himself.

Cobain, whose band rose to global fame in the city's grunge rock music scene of the early 1990s, was 27 when he died April 5, 1994, in his home in a wealthy neighborhood near Lake Washington.

Fans trekked Friday to nearby Viretta Park, leaving memorials on benches, where flowers mixed with handwritten phrases like "thank you for your art" and "find your place."

In an essay on the Crosscut news website, Cobain biographer Charles R. Cross wrote that few Seattle musicians "have been as tied to Seattle in the mind of the popular zeitgeist as Kurt Cobain."

Nirvana's breakthrough album, "Nevermind," was released in 1991. Featuring the hit "Smells Like Teen Spirit," the album went to No. 1 on the Billboard charts and has sold tens of millions of copies worldwide.

Nirvana was the most prominent of the era's series of Seattle grunge bands, including Pearl Jam, Soundgarden and Alice in Chains, that would go on to release best-selling records.

Cobain's angst-filled lyrics and his band's powerful, dark rock struck a chord with young people. Days after his death, thousands of people gathered near the Space Needle for a public memorial.

An investigation determined he took a massive dose of heroin and then shot himself.

Chicago to sue Jussie Smollett for police's costs of investigation

CHICAGO (AP)—Jussie Smollett has refused to pay more than $130,000 to reimburse Chicago investigative costs and the city said Thursday it will sue the "Empire" actor for money spent investigating what officials say was a phony racist, anti-gay attack that Smollett staged.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's law chief sent Smollett a March 28 letter demanding he pay $130,106—plus 15 cents—for overtime worked by detectives and officers in looking into his claims. It set Thursday as the deadline to pay.

The City Law Department said in a Thursday evening statement that it was already drafting a lawsuit in response and would file it "in the near future."

Smollett, who is black and gay, maintains he told the truth in reporting that two masked men assaulted him in downtown Chicago on Jan. 29, shouting slurs and wrapping a rope around his neck.

Kim Kardashian West plans CBD-themed baby shower

NEW YORK (AP)—Kim Kardashian West is "high key freaking out" about the arrival of her fourth child and wants nothing more than to Zen out at her baby shower.

Hence, her planned CBD-themed bash, the reality star and makeup mogul told E! News.

There will be massages and a tea ceremony with crystals, she said while promoting her new line of sunglasses. The baby, the second boy for Kardashian West and husband Kanye West, is due soon. It's her second by surrogacy.

Kardashian West said she's done with traditional baby games and showers after three but thinks her kids will benefit from a party ahead of the birth to help them celebrate the surrogacy situation. That's what happened with her oldest two when Chicago, her third and first by surrogate was on the way.

And the latest party theme? Well, CBD is short for cannabidiol, the chemical compound in the cannabis plant. It's known for promoting relaxation and has been embraced in health and beauty products, along with just about every other aspect of life.

To further enhance the relaxation idea: "We're going to have a drink at this baby shower. We're not pregnant," Kardashian West said. "This is the massages for all, just like meditation calm before the storm baby shower."

AP

In this Aug. 28, 2016 file photo, Kim Kardashian West, left, and Kanye West arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York.

Iron Maiden singer made honorary citizen of Bosnia's capital

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnia's capital city made Iron Maiden lead singer Bruce Dickinson an honorary citizen Saturday for a concert he performed while Sarajevo was under siege during the 1992-95 war.

Mayor Abdulah Skaka presented the award at a ceremony in Sarajevo City Hall, which was badly damaged during the long Bosnian Serb siege of the city and since restored.

"The arrival of Mr. Dickinson in Sarajevo in 1994 was one of those moments that made us in Sarajevo realize that we will survive, that the city of Sarajevo will survive, that Bosnia-Herzegovina will survive," said Skaka.

Saturday was Sarajevo Day, which marks the city's 1945 liberation during World War II and the start in 1992 of the Bosnian Serb siege that killed more than 11,000 people, including 1,600 children.

Dickinson, who also walked through the city center greeting people and signing autographs, said that "it's a great honor to be given the honorary citizenship of Sarajevo."

"In a world where things only last for about five seconds on social media ... people are still remembering it. That's really quite something," he told The Associated Press. "This is a brilliant day, a lovely day and it's great to be back."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Lauren Sanchez files for divorce after Bezos split finalized

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TV anchor Lauren Sanchez, who is in a relationship with Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, filed for divorce the day after Bezos' divorce was finalized. Sanchez and talent agent Patrick Whitesell, her husband of 14 years, both filed divorce papers Friday. They're seeking joint custody of their two kids. The divorce of Bezos and wife MacKenzie Bezos was finalized Thursday. The billionaire pair announced they were getting divorced in January, shortly before the National Enquirer reported that Jeff Bezos and Sanchez were having an affair. He later accused the tabloid's publisher of threatening to publish explicit photos of him unless he stopped investigating how the Enquirer obtained his private messages with Sanchez. Sanchez has been a news anchor and sports reporter, and hosted Fox TV's "So You Think You Can Dance."

Worker dies in fall while setting up Coachella Festival

INDIO, California (AP)—A Coachella worker has died while setting up for the music and arts festival in the Southern California desert. Goldenvoice, which puts Coachella in Indio each year, said in a statement the man was a lead rigger who died in a fall while working on a stage on festival grounds at the Empire Polo Club. The statement did not identify him by name but said he had been on the Coachella team for 20 years. The six-day festival, spread over two long weekends, is scheduled to begin Friday. The statement said all at Coachella are "grieving this loss." It said the worker was "doing what he loved." Ariana Grande, Childish Gambino and Janelle Monae are among numerous acts to take to the Coachella stages this year.

Avicii's first posthumous single and album to be released

NEW YORK (AP)—Avicii's first posthumous single will be released next week and a full album will be out in June. Collaborators of the Swedish DJ-producer say in a statement Friday that Avicii was close to completing his new album before he died last April in Muscat, Oman. His co-writers continued to work on the nearly finished songs and a new single, "SOS," will drop on April 10. The album, titled "TIM," will be released on June 6. Avicii's team says since he died, "the family decided not to keep the music locked away—instead they wanted to share it with his fans all around the world." Grammy-nominated Avicii, whose real name was Tim Bergling, performed sold-out concerts for feverish fans around the world and also had massive success on U.S. pop radio with "Wake Me Up." In 2016, the performer announced he was retiring from the road, though he continued to produce songs and albums. Proceeds from the upcoming album will benefit the Tim Bergling Foundation, which focuses on supporting people and organizations in the field of mental illness and suicide prevention.

Judge weighing motions in Kevin Spacey alleged groping case

NANTUCKET, Mass. (AP)—A judge is weighing motions filed by lawyers for Kevin Spacey, charged with groping an 18-year-old man on Nantucket in 2016. The Oscar-winning former "House of Cards" actor didn't attend Thursday's hearing at Nantucket District Court. Spacey's attorneys have been seeking to preserve phone and electronic records between the man—who says Spacey unzipped his pants and fondled him—and the man's girlfriend at the time. USA Today reports the hearing concluded with the judge taking the motions under advisement. The assault allegedly occurred at a restaurant on the island off Cape Cod where the young man worked as a busboy. Spacey pleaded not guilty in January to felony indecent assault and battery. His lawyers have called the accusations "patently false." The next hearing is June 3.

5 French novels are finalists for $10,000 Albertine Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—English-language editions of French novels drawing upon everything from immigration to Burundi's civil war to Nazism in the 1930s are finalists for the $10,000 Albertine Prize. The nominees, announced Thursday, include the rapper-novelist Gael Faye's Burundi narrative "Small Country" and Franco-Iranian Negar Djavadi's multigenerational "Disoriental." Also nominated were Franco-Mauritian Nathacha Appanah's family saga "Waiting for Tomorrow," Franco-Moroccan Leila Slimani's "The Perfect Nanny" and French author-filmmaker Eric Vuillard's novel about the Nazis' rise, "The Order of the Day." The award is presented by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and Van Cleef & Arpels, and voted on by U.S readers through http://www.albertine.com/albertine-prize . The deadline is April 30. The winning author receives $8,000, and the translator $2,000.

Mom takes action against daughter's abusive boyfriend

DEAR ABBY: I am 26. My mom recently got my boyfriend sent to jail. We met six months ago. After a month, he started verbally abusing me, which progressed to physical abuse. Each time I was sure I was about to die.

He is now locked up for kidnapping, false imprisonment and aggravated assault. Mom had had enough of hearing about the abuse and took matters into her own hands. I didn't want her to call the police because I don't feel jail is right for people except killers.

I understand she wanted to protect me because I kept going back, but now I cry every day worrying about if he is safe in jail and wondering how he's feeling. Everybody around me is saying I don't need to worry about him because he didn't care about how he made me feel. I think it's heartless to say that.

When he got arrested, I was in awful pain with my neck and back, but all I could think about was him. People are telling me I need counseling, but I don't think it will help, because at the end of the day I will still think about him and worry about him.

I don't think the cops and my mom took into consideration how this would affect me mentally. I'm depressed and can't stop wondering if my boyfriend is OK because I'm a really good and nice person, and it sucks. I am going to go to counseling because I know I need to do it, but Abby, how do I eventually not think about him and his well-being and be heartless like him?

HAVING A HARD TIME IN GEORGIA

DEAR HARD TIME: I believe you are a good and nice person, but you are also one who is very mixed up right now. If you think your abuser loved you, you are mistaken. Men who treat women the way he treated you not only don't love women, they don't even LIKE them. Had your mother not done what she did, you could be dead.

If you want an example of what love is, love is doing something to help your daughter, knowing it may alienate her forever, but doing it anyway to save her life. I'm pleased you have agreed to counseling because you need it very much. After you have gone for a while, your emotional dependence on your abuser will dissipate. He is exactly where he belongs, and you need to get on with your life.

DEAR ABBY: Five months ago, my husband and I suffered a miscarriage. We had been trying to have a baby for six years, and we were over the moon excited. We waited 12 weeks to tell any friends or family, but we ended up having complications and losing our little one at 22 weeks.

My problem is some of our friends. I'm sure they mean well, but they continue to ask if we are trying again or if I'm expecting, and some keep insisting that I'm pregnant and that I should take a pregnancy test. It's soul crushing. What can I say when they ask me next time that will stop them from asking in the future? We will certainly tell them when it happens, but I don't want to discuss it until then.

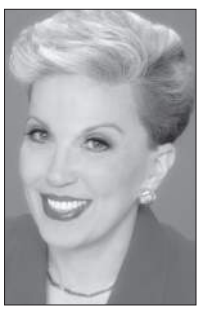
CHANGING THE SUBJECT

DEAR CHANGING: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. The most appropriate way to handle these intrusive and insensitive questions (and comments) would be to tell them exactly what you told me in the last sentence of your letter and repeat it as necessary.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

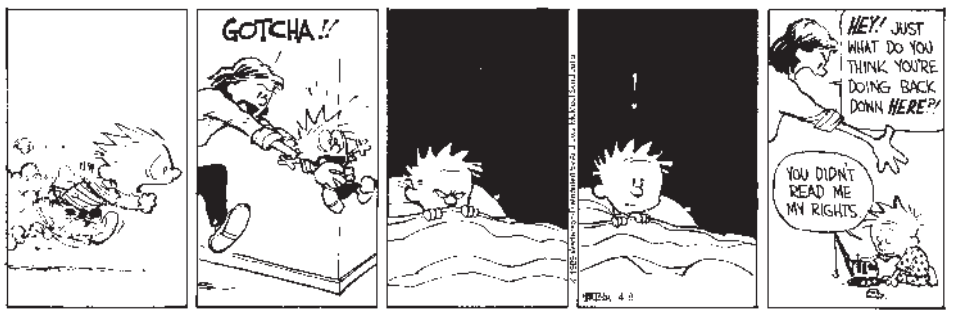


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

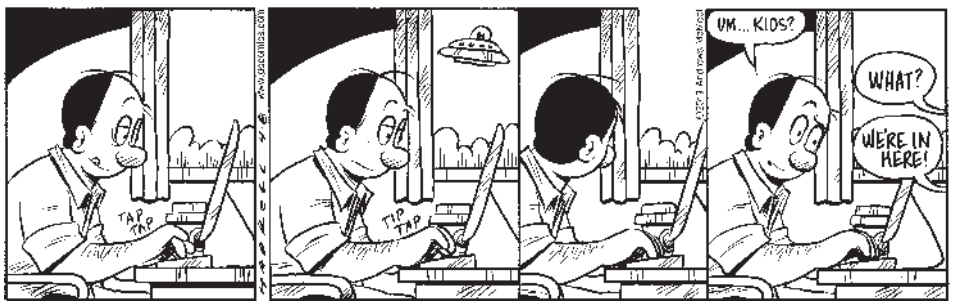


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

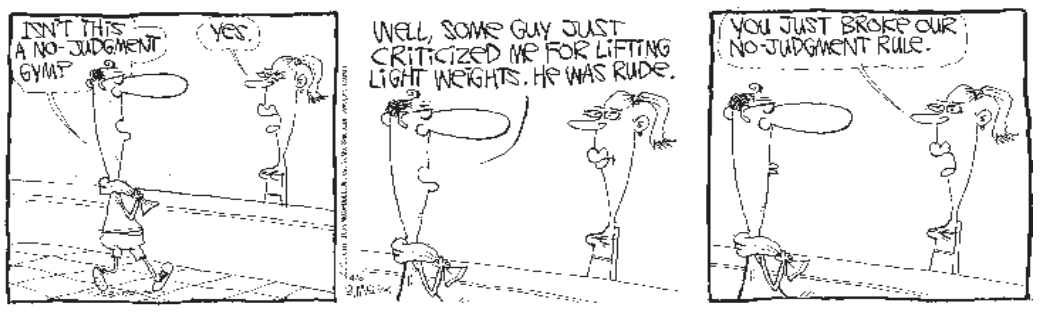
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


ISN'T THIS A NO-JUDGMENT GYM?
YES.
WELL, SOME GUY JUST CRITICIZED ME FOR LIFTING LIGHT WEIGHTS. HE WAS RUDE.
YOU JUST BROKE OUR NO-JUDGMENT RULE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

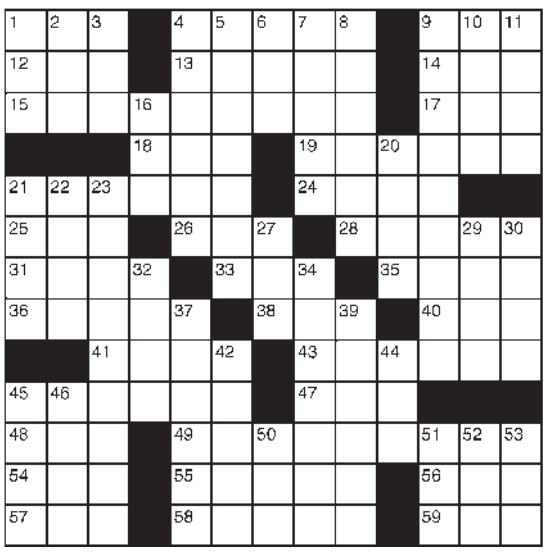
ACROSS
1 Witty one
4 Brings in
9 Rail
12 Mess up
13 Unconventional
14 Quarterback Manning
15 Airhead
17 Heavy weight
18 Verily
19 Made finer, as flour
21 Rope parts
24 "Holy —!"
25 Prefix with gram or center
26 Spasm
28 Picture puzzle
31 Towering
33 "Eureka!"
35 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
36 Politico Stevenson
38 Branch
40 Klutz
41 Village People hit
43 Place of worship
45 Thief
47 Equal (Pref.)
48 Terre Haute sch.
49 Inflatable pool toy
54 Prof's degree
55 Point of view
56 Noon, on a sundial
57 Blue
58 Portals
59 Moray, for one

DOWN
1 Entanglement
2 "Entourage" character
3 Spike's warning
4 Actor De Niro
5 Turkey is part of it
6 — glance
7 Spectrum creator
8 Soon-to-be grad
9 Cartoon vamp
10 Medicinal plant
11 Peel
16 Coloring agent
20 Skedaddled
21 Greek salad cheese
22 Apple tablet
23 Melville sailor
27 Dance syllable
29 Russian river
30 Ump's call
32 Gentle soul
34 Newspaper piece
37 Headache aid
39 Fits together
42 Where the action is
44 Unruly group
45 Tears
46 Job-safety org.
50 Literary rep
51 Chopping tool
52 Fish story
53 Dogpatch adjective

Solution time: 26 mins.

C	A	L	■	I	C	Y	■	W	I	L	M	A
I	S	U	■	M	O	A	■	I	D	I	O	M
I	T	S	■	A	C	R	O	P	O	L	I	S
M	R	T	■	M	O	N	D	E	■	■	■	■
B	O	S	C	■	O	S	E	■	D	A	L	Y
■	■	■	P	O	N	■	S	L	I	C	E	D
L	I	T	E	R	■	■	■	O	A	S	I	S
P	O	M	P	O	M	■	J	O	N	■	■	■
S	U	Z	E	■	E	A	U	■	A	M	O	R
■	■	■	L	M	B	R	A	■	A	F	E	■
A	N	N	A	F	O	L	I	S	■	N	E	D
H	E	A	R	D	■	E	S	P	■	N	F	A
S	A	Y	S	O	■	R	T	S	■	A	A	S

Last Friday's Answer 04-08



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Kitsch, 38; Patricia Arquette, 51; Robin Wright, 53; John Schneider, 59.

Happy Birthday: The best opportunities are the ones you research and make happen yourself. Consider the possibilities; take the most natural approach to reaching your objective. Staying on course and making changes along the way that promote success are encouraged. If you let someone interfere or take over, you will lose momentum as well as control of the outcome. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 21, 26, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Change the way you handle money matters or earn your living. A chance to do something physical for extra cash will be rewarding and boost your confidence. Don't let a change someone makes ruin your plans. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't hesitate to make a change. Seize the moment and go after what you want. Put everything in order before you share your plans. Being fully prepared will prevent someone from meddling in your affairs. Be proactive, not stubborn. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be sensitive to other people's concerns and issues. You can make suggestions, but don't take over or take on something that isn't your problem. Don't offer to pay for someone else's mistake or let anyone take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Partnerships should be a priority. Much can be accomplished at work or at home if you work alongside others. Your input, memory and experience will serve you well when trying to bring about positive change. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't be surprised if someone makes an unexpected change or decision. Look at your options, but don't react until you have a plan in place. Network or attend a conference or meeting that will give you the chance to make suggestions. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Share your thoughts and intentions, and be open to suggestions. A change can be made that will encourage progress if you take your time and don't respond with criticism or anger. Give others a chance to express new possibilities. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You may feel like getting away, but before you do, be sure to take care of your responsibilities. Don't let a challenge get you down or stand in your way. Approach problems head-on to keep moving forward. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't let what's happened in the past weigh you down or hold you back. Concentrate on the present and the people you enjoy being around. Good relationships will develop if you surround yourself with creative people. Love and romance will improve your life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen carefully and don't respond in haste. Mull over what's being said or offered, and consider what's good for you and what isn't. Stick to the ideas and plans that won't jeopardize your reputation or important relationships. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Work from home if possible, or take care of business you've left undone. Don't give anyone access to personal information or passwords. A domestic project will add to the value of your place and please someone you love. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't let the changes going on around you stress you out. Pay close attention to what it is that will make you happy, and head in that direction. Making personal improvements to your environment and supporting causes you believe in will be rewarding. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Mix the old with the new in order to come up with something worthwhile. Get involved in an event that gives you a chance to voice your opinion and bring about positive change. Personal improvements and romance are favored. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are secretive, adaptable and open-minded. You are ambitious and playful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8			9	5		2	
						7		5
5			6		4	9	3	
		7			2	5		6
2			8	4	9			3
4		3			7	2		
	4	5	2		7			9
3		1						
	6		4	3		8		

Difficulty Level ★ 4/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	4	9	7	3	8	5	1	2
3	8	1	4	2	5	6	7	9
7	5	2	1	6	9	8	4	3
9	2	4	5	8	3	1	6	7
8	7	6	9	4	1	3	2	5
5	1	3	6	7	2	9	8	4
4	9	8	2	5	6	7	3	1
1	3	7	8	9	4	2	5	6
2	6	5	3	1	7	4	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/5

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A SKOSH MORE Solution: 5 letters

E	T	E	P	P	I	N	S	S	E	C	O	N	D	S
Y	T	M	F	O	T	I	H	W	E	R	T	N	I	H
L	I	I	T	L	R	P	O	S	T	U	N	A	E	P
D	O	N	T	R	E	D	R	I	I	M	E	L	C	E
R	T	U	C	E	A	C	T	H	M	B	M	U	I	F
A	A	T	N	H	P	P	K	S	I	M	G	F	L	L
H	E	E	S	C	U	A	T	O	N	I	A	N	S	A
Y	M	B	I	T	E	N	J	K	I	C	R	O	P	K
N	O	O	C	R	U	A	K	U	M	R	F	O	L	E
I	S	S	T	O	P	D	A	S	H	O	R	P	E	L
T	F	S	M	A	P	S	H	K	S	T	T	S	A	B
R	L	A	N	I	M	A	N	O	I	T	C	E	S	B
A	A	E	N	A	D	S	C	O	P	E	L	H	T	I
C	S	C	L	E	E	G	N	I	T	G	R	A	I	N
E	H	L	I	T	T	L	E	L	P	M	A	S	S	P

© 2019 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 4/8

Amount, Atom, Bite, Chip, Chunk, Crumb, Dash, Drop, Flake, Flash, Fleck, Fragment, Grain, Hardly, Hint, Iota, Japanese, Least, Little, Micro, Minim, Minute, Mite, Mote, Nibble, Ounce, Part, Peanuts, Petite, Pinch, Portion, Salts, Sample, Scope, Second, Section, Shade, Shadow, Short, Slice, Small, Smidge, Snippet, Some, Spoonful, Streak, Sukoshi, Tinge, Tiny, Trace, Whit

Last Friday's Answer: Quarreling

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For positive results.

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities contact us at 235-6397

PACIFIC UNLIMITED INC
SYNERGY • COLLABORATION • SOLUTIONS

has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Heavy Equipment Operator
Water Truck Operator
Laborers

Individuals applying for operator positions must have prior experience and demonstrate proficiency in operating equipment prior to a formal job offer. Qualified candidates will be asked to demonstrate their proficiency operating excavators or dozers and water trucks. PUI will provide the equipment.

Laborers must be willing to work outdoors. Prior experience in construction a plus but not required. The only requirements is consistent attendance, ability to follow directions, and a good attitude.

PUI has both day and night shifts available. Individuals who currently have day jobs are encouraged to apply for night shifts.

Please send resumes to: jobs@pacificunlimitedguam.com or call Donny at (671) 898-2553.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE

Please call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: Old English Sheepdog

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Virginia sinks FT on disputed foul to stun Auburn

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Hard to call Virginia basketball boring after the last two games. And the Cavaliers have pretty much put the choker label to rest, too.

From one-and-done to NCAA Tournament miracle men, Virginia will play for the national title for the first time after pulling off another last-second stunner. Kyle Guy made three free throws with 0.6 seconds left, steadily swishing each one as debate immediately started over the sequence that sent him to the line, and Virginia beat Auburn 63-62 Saturday in the Final Four.

A year after becoming the first No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 16, these top-seeded Cavaliers now look like destiny's team.

"It's a great story," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said. "It is."

The Cavaliers (34-3) will face Texas Tech on Monday night as the slight favorite to win the tournament.

Bennett has built a powerhouse in 10 years in Charlottesville on a style of play that is often about as exciting as a trip to the campus library. The Cavaliers have gotten straight A's in the regular season with stingy defense and walk-it-up offense, but NCAA success has been hard to come by. Blown leads and early exits have been their story—never more than when the Cavaliers lost to UMBC, a school known for chess, not hoops.

Something has gotten into these Wahoos the last two weeks, though. They reached the Final Four for the first time since 1984 with a wild buzzer-beater by Mamadi Diakite to send their Elite Eight game against Purdue to overtime. Beating the Tigers took an even crazier finish.

Fifth-seeded Auburn (30-10) had erased a 10-point deficit in the final five minutes and taken a 4-point lead. Heartbreak was again at hand for Virginia.

The Tigers led 61-60 after Guy made an off-balance 3 with 7.6 seconds left. The shot snapped a drought of more than five minutes by the Cavaliers, who then immediately sent Jared Harper to the line.

Harper made one and Auburn, with fouls to give, did so twice. On one of them, it looked as if Ty Jerome might have double-dribbled into a decisive turnover. Jerome also might have been fouled before the mishandle. But there was no whistle for either.

"We knew there was a disruption," Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said.

With 1.5 seconds left and in need of some magic, Virginia got the ball to Guy in the corner. He turned and fired and Samir Doughty, hands straight up in the air, bumped into Guy's hip. The shot was short, bouncing off the rim. Game over? Auburn started to celebrate and the PA announcer in U.S. Bank Stadium even announced the Tigers had won.

Guy pulled his jersey over his face. But not in angst. He said he exactly knew why official James Breeding had blown his whistle.

"I heard him call it right away," Guy said. "That was me focusing."

Meanwhile, Pearl lost it on the sideline, pumping his fist and screaming.

"We kind of thought we had it sealed," said Bryce Brown, who led the Auburn comeback with three 3s in the final 4:30. "It's not why we lost the game. I just didn't agree with the call."

Pearl said he didn't want the final call to define a great game, but he did say the officials seemed to be letting physical play go throughout.

"My advice ... if that's a foul, call it," Pearl said. "Call it at the beginning of the game, call it in the middle of the game, call it at the end of the game. Don't call it any more or less at any other time during the game."

Guy swished the first two free throws to tie it and Auburn called a timeout to ice him. Didn't work. He hit one more for the lead.

"I just literally told myself that we dream of these moments, and to be able to make one happen was special," Guy said.

Auburn threw a long inbound pass to Brown, but his desperation 3 was short.

The Cavaliers mobbed Guy on one end. Brown sat on the court, head hanging on the other. Auburn, in the Final Four for the first time, had its 12-game winning streak and season end in a most painful way.

NCAA national coordinator of officials J.D. Collins declined comment on the potential double dribble, but said Breeding's call was correct.

AP

Virginia's Kyle Guy draws a foul from Samir Doughty on a three-pointer with less than a second remaining in the Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament, Saturday, April 6, 2019, in Minneapolis. Virginia won, 63-62.

The foul violated the rule that "verticality applies to a legal position and also to both the offensive and defensive players," Collins said. "The defender may not 'belly up' or use the lower part of the body or arms to cause contact outside his vertical plane or inside the opponent's vertical plane."

Jerome scored 21 points for Virginia and De'Andre Hunter had 10 of his 14 in a stellar second half.

Doughty led Auburn with 13 points and Brown had 12 for Auburn, which survived the first round against New Mexico State when Terrell Brown of the Aggies missed two of three free throws with 1.1 seconds remaining in the Tigers' 78-77 victory.

Auburn wasn't so fortunate this time, and Virginia, the team that made UMBC a household name—at least for a little while— in the first round of last year's tournament would not be denied. Being on the receiving end of maybe the most humbling NCAA Tournament upset ever has been Virginia's cross to bear all season. Even after beating Auburn, the Cavaliers had to recall the feeling of their offseason routine starting unexpectedly early last year.

"I feel like I get asked this question every single round, every round we advance, and every round I say the same thing almost," Jerome said, "and it feels a little bit sweeter, a little bit sweeter."

Guy 'terrified'

It was the ultimate pressure-packed moment for Guy. The Virginia guard was stepping to the free-throw line for three shots down two with less than a second to go in the Final Four after being fouled by Doughty.

He makes all three he's the hero. He makes less than two—and the Cavaliers had shot just 3-for-9 from the line to that point—he's the goat.

So he was calm and in control the whole time, right? Well, not quite.

"I could lie to you and say I knew I was going to hit them, but I was terrified," Guy said.

"I had confidence in myself but—this is what we dream of. For me to be able to do this for our team, I couldn't be happier."

Regardless of how he felt, and kudos to Guy for being honest, he got the job done and Virginia is moving on in thrilling fashion.

Texas Tech bullish on title chances

MINNEAPOLIS—Asked to answer a question, Chris Beard, head coach of the surging Texas Tech basketball team, posed one about 48 hours before his Red Raiders play Virginia for the national championship.

"Why not us?" he said.

During a press conference after his third-seeded Red Raiders upset second-seeded Michigan State, 61-51, Beard was responding to a reporter who noted the unlikelihood of Texas Tech reaching the NCAA title game at U.S. Bank Stadium. After all, the reporter noted, the Red Raiders have reached the Final Four for the first time in school history and were picked to finish seventh in the Big 12 conference.

"I respect the question, but why not us?" Beard said. "We've got good players. We've got a great university. We play in arguably the best league in the country. We won the Big 12 regular-season title. We're a good team. We've got good players.

"Yeah, I think we deserve to be here, as do a lot of other teams. You've got to get fortunate, but we did. I'm looking forward to coaching these guys on Monday night."

If Beard sounded a tad chippy, well, so did his players. (Note their t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Never Lose the Chip.")

"People are still counting us out," Texas Tech forward Tariq Owens said after blocking three shots in the victory over Michigan State. "… We're going to earn people's respect, one way or another."

One way Texas Tech earned respect Saturday night was winning despite an off night from sophomore guard Jarrett Culver, who at one point was 1-for-8 for the floor and finished with 10 points, almost nine points below his average.

"Next man up," the Texas Tech center said when asked how Texas Tech responded. "One through 15, we have guys ready, ready to play.

"I know the nation doesn't know who we have, but we know what we have."

So, why not them?

Meanwhile, after leading Texas Tech into the national championship game, Beard has never been a hotter commodity. But Tech athletic director Kirby Hocutt sounds unconcerned he might lose him.

"We've got the resources to do what we need to retain Chris Beard," Hocutt said.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that Arkansas, which parted ways with Mike Anderson last month, is waiting for a chance to woo Beard. UCLA's job remains open, as well.

Hocutt said Texas Tech began talking about renegotiating his current contract in February, as Texas Tech was on its way to winning a share of the Big 12's regular-season championship, but shelved talks until after the season.

Trout's grand slam powers Angels past Rangers

AP

Texas Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor, center, jumps over Los Angeles Angels' Brian Goodwin, right, after picking him off at second as second base umpire David Rackley makes the call during the seventh inning of a baseball game Saturday, April 6, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Any pitcher who wants a prayer of retiring Mike Trout should throw high fastballs, at least according to the old conventional wisdom on the star slugger.

That's exactly what Drew Smyly threw, and that's exactly what Trout hit 458 feet for the grandest homer yet in his latest power binge.

Trout hit a grand slam for his fourth homer in three days, and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Texas Rangers 5-1 on Saturday for their first back-to-back victories of the season.

Trout's fourth-inning drive off Smyly (0-1) cleared the bullpens beyond the left field fence at Angel Stadium. He absolutely clobbered a fastball at the top of the strike zone, taking an eraser to yet another item on the diminishing list of effective strategies to deal with the two-time AL MVP.

"Obviously it's just adjustments," Trout said of his increasing acumen at hitting high pitches after occasionally struggling with them earlier in his career. "I couldn't tell you one thing that I'm doing to hit those pitches. Just getting a good pitch to hit and trying to put a barrel to it, not trying to do too much. If you try to do too much with a pitch up (high), you're not going to hit it. You're going to pop up. So especially with guys on base, you're just looking for something around the zone."

After homering in the Halos' home opener Thursday and adding two more Friday, Trout connected for his first grand slam since 2015 and No. 5 for his career. He has homered in three straight games for the seventh consecutive time in his career; he homered in four straight during May 2017.

"(Smyly) actually represents a pretty good matchup for Trout because of the high fastballs, (but) there's really no great matchup against Trout, especially when there's nowhere to put him," Texas manager Chris Woodward said. "I'm going to have nightmares about that guy."

Trout is off to a dynamite start after cementing his future in Anaheim with a 12-year, $426.5 million contract before the season. He has reached base in all nine games this season, including four times Saturday while boosting his on-base percentage to .553 and his OPS to a whopping 1.476.

Tigers 7, Royals 4

In Detroit, Christin Stewart hit a two-out grand slam in the seventh inning, lifting the Tigers to a victory over the Kansas City Royals. Kevin McCarthy (0-1) allowed three hits.

Whit Merrifield, Jorge Soler and Hunter Dozier all homered for the Royals.

Mariners 9, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Jay Bruce hit two solo home runs, Tim Beckham had a three-run shot among his four hits and the Seattle Mariners beat the White Sox.

Tim Anderson and Jose Abreu also went deep for Chicago. Mike Leake (2-0) allowed nine hits and struck out six through 61/3 innings for Seattle.

Yankees 6, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Aaron Judge homered twice, Clint Frazier hit a three-run shot in the eighth inning and the New York Yankees beat the Orioles.

Adam Ottavino (1-0) allowed two inherited runners to score in the seventh. Aroldis Chapman earned his second save. Trey Mancini hit his fourth home run for the Orioles.

Astros 6, Athletics 0

In Houston, Michael Brantley broke out of a slump with two hits, including a two-run homer, and George Springer added a two-run shot and the Astros beat the Oakland Athletics.

Wade Miley (1-1) allowed four hits in 52/3 innings for Houston. Oakland starter Aaron Brooks (1-1) yielded nine hits and five runs in five innings.

Padres 6, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Austin Hedges and Manny Machado each hit a two-run homer off Andrew Miller in the eighth inning, helping the San Diego Padres beat the Cardinals for their third consecutive win.

It was the first time that Miller (0-1) allowed multiple homers in a game since Sept. 22, 2015. Matt Wisler (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

Cubs 14, Brewers 8

In Milwaukee, Jason Heyward went deep twice for his first multihomer game in a Cubs uniform, Cole Hamels grinded through six solid innings and Chicago beat the Brewers to end a six-game skid.

Heyward hit the first of three Chicago homers against starter Corbin Burnes, with Javier Baez and Victor Caratini also going yard.

Mets 6, Nationals 5

In New York, rookie Pete Alonso and Robinson Cano hit back-to-back home runs to begin the eighth and Keon Broxton lined an RBI single later in the inning, lifting the Mets over the Washington Nationals.

J.D. Davis hit two home runs and Michael Conforto for the Mets. Anthony Rendon hit a leadoff homer and Wilmer Difo added a two-run shot in the eighth.

Marlins 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Jorge Alfaro homered twice, including a tie-breaking, two-run shot in the ninth inning, and the Miami Marlins beat the Braves.

His first long ball came off Braves starter Kyle Wright and the second one off reliever A.J. Minter (0-1).

Twins 6, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Max Kepler and Willians Astudillo hit consecutive homers, Eddie Rosario hit a three-run shot and the Minnesota Twins beat the Phillies.

Rhys Hoskins went deep for the Phillies. Michael Pineda (1-0) allowed two runs and four hits, striking out five in five-plus innings for the Twins.

Giants 6, Rays 4

In San Francisco, Brandon Belt homered and drove in three, and the Giants beat the Tampa Bay Rays.

Steven Duggar had three RBIs for the Giants. Ji-Man Choi had two hits and two RBIs for Tampa Bay. Travis Bergen (1-0) earned his first career victory in relief. Will Smith earned his third save.

Once barred, female golfers shine at Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga.—The scene looked so familiar, except that it came eight days too early. The shadows were starting to lengthen around the 18th green, where the crowds were so deep and full to the brim that people were leaving because they simply couldn't see. The final two golfers had staged a masterful duel down the stretch and now were making their walk up the most famous fairway in their sport.

Sunday afternoon at the Masters?

No, Saturday afternoon at the Augusta National Women's Amateur.

If this is what hell looks like when it freezes over, I think we need to see more of it.

There are no more unlikely feminists on earth than the green-jacketed members cloistered within the gates of Augusta National Golf Club. For generations, their exclusive and revered club, the home of the Masters, sent a blunt five-word message to girls and women around the world: We do not want you.

It didn't matter that the game was losing participants and in fact desperately needed girls and women, who happen to make up 51 percent of the population and have always been the very definition of an untapped market for golf.

Augusta National stood its ground, and the powers that be in golf nodded their heads and rallied around the club, defending the indefensible, including the time nearly 17 years ago when then-club chairman Hootie Johnson issued the infamous, immortal and utterly preposterous line that the club would not be pressured into inviting women members "at the point of a bayonet."

Those days seemed like centuries ago on Saturday during the final round of the tournament current club chairman Fred Ridley, the father of three daughters, invented to usher Augusta National into the 20th century before too much more of the 21st went by.

Just seven years after finally bringing in its first two women members, Augusta National flung open its doors to women who were not the club members' wives or daughters. They were not volunteers. They were not fans.

For the first time in history, a women's tournament was held at Augusta National. If sports fans didn't already know what to expect from watching the Williams sisters over two decades or the U.S. women's national soccer team or countless female Olympians, this event confirmed one of the great truths of current-day sports: give female athletes a grand international stage and they will shine.

Tournament champion Jennifer Kupcho, a Wake Forest senior who is the world's top-ranked amateur, was every bit the sports hero on this course that Tiger and Phil and Jack have been. Blasphemy? Hardly. She battled a migraine headache that blurred her vision so badly she couldn't make out the line on her golf ball from the 8th green to the 11th tee.

"I can't see anything," she told her caddie. "Just tell me where to hit it."

At the time, Kupcho was engaged in a back-and-forth duel with her rival and good friend Maria Fassi, an Arkansas senior. Once the migraine passed, she boldly eagled the famous par-5 13th on her way to shooting 5-under-par in her last six holes, just like Nicklaus did when he won in 1986.

When Kupcho drained a 20-foot birdie putt on 18 to finish at a scintillating 10-under for the three-day tournament, four strokes ahead of Fassi, the fans roared and rushed to get near her. Augusta National members looked on with awe. Was this really happening?

Nets bolster playoff hopes with win against Bucks

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Jared Dudley brought a veteran's presence and poise to a tense situation, helping the Brooklyn Nets to a crucial win in their bid for the playoffs.

Dudley's offensive rebound set up Joe Harris' go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:24 left in Brooklyn's 133-128 victory over the short-handed Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday.

Brooklyn (40-40) made 19 3-pointers and placed eight players in double figures. D'Angelo Russell had 25 points and 10 assists, reserve Caris LeVert scored 24 points and Dudley collected 14 of his season high-tying 16 points in the second half.

The Nets, who had dropped four of five, moved into sixth place in the East. Orlando also is 40-40, and Detroit is a half-game back with a 39-40 record.

The Nets have tiebreakers with both the Magic and Pistons.

Milwaukee played without MVP candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo, who was sidelined by a left calf injury. The Bucks (59-21) clinched the NBA's best record with a road victory against Philadelphia on Thursday night.

"It was tough, even without Giannis," Dudley said. "I know that helped us. We just got key stops at the very end.

"I was playing center. They were going small ball. We wanted them to feel a little uncomfortable, having (Brook) Lopez having to guard a little more."

Nets coach Kenny Atkinson called Dudley "the X factor" and said his instincts and understanding of the league contributed to Brooklyn's first win in four meetings with Milwaukee this season.

Eric Bledsoe had 33 points and 11 assists for Milwaukee, and Khris Middleton finished with 24 points.

Bledsoe's two foul shots made it 128-126 Bucks with 2:30 left, but the Nets closed the game with a 7-0 run. Russell made two free throws, Harris drilled his tiebreaking 3 and Russell drove for a basket with 59.1 seconds remaining.

"It was a room-and-rhythm look," Harris said of his triple. "Sometimes the best opportunity to get a 3 off is on an offensive rebound."

Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said Antetokounmpo was kicked or hit in the calf against the 76ers and understood sitting out could help him get ready for the playoffs next week.

"There has been a significant amount of success and winning that has helped him be less difficult," Budenholzer said. "I have flashbacks to the first couple games; he was upset every time I took him out of the game. When I think about that to where we are today, it has been great."

AP

Brooklyn Nets' D'Angelo Russell, right, drives against the Milwaukee Bucks' Ersan Ilyasova during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, April 6, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Brooklyn shot 52% from the field and scored 36 points in the paint on its way to a 66-65 halftime lead. Russell had 18 points on 8-of-10 shooting and LeVert added 14 points on 6-of-7 shooting.

Bledsoe, who played a team-high 33 minutes, said the team would love to reach the 60-victory mark.

"We want to achieve it but at the same time we want to play the right way," Bledsoe said. "I thought we did a great job of doing that tonight.

"It was a big game for them. So we've just got to move on."

76ers 116, Bulls 96

In Chicago, the Philadelphia 76ers endured five straight losing seasons and bottomed out with 10 wins three years ago.

Considering how far they fell during their rebuilding project, coach Brett Brown can sure appreciate where they are at the moment.

Joel Embiid had 20 points and 10 rebounds, JJ Redick scored 23 and the 76ers hit the 50-win mark for the second year in a row with a victory over the Chicago Bulls.

"I know how difficult it is," Brown said. "In the NBA, when you can have a team that can find 50 wins, it's unique and difficult. I give (this) group credit. We've gone through a few iterations of what the team looks like. We all kind of understand the 50-win milestone goes away quickly when the playoffs begin. As it sits, to get back-to-back 50-win seasons is a great accomplishment for the guys in that locker room."

Brown, in his sixth year, was on the bench for four losing seasons before Philadelphia turned it around. The 76ers broke that run in 2017-18, reaching the Eastern Conference semifinals. They are now closing in on the No. 3 seed, with a two-game lead over idle Boston.

Embiid dominated inside, Redick supplied the outside touch and the 76ers got back to winning after dropping three in a row, even though guard Jimmy Butler missed his second consecutive game because of back tightness.

Embiid had five assists and blocked three shots in his second straight start after missing three in a row. The All-Star center has been dealing with a sore left knee, and the Sixers are managing his workload with the playoffs approaching.

Redick nailed four 3-pointers. Tobias Harris added 16 points. Ben Simmons scored 14, and the 76ers pulled away in the third quarter after grabbing an eight-point halftime lead.

JaKarr Sampson led Chicago with a career-high 29 points. But the Bulls lost for the sixth time in seven games.

"It's big time," said Sampson, signed to a 10-day contract on Sunday. "I'm thankful for the opportunity (coach Jim Boylen has) given me to play big-time minutes in the NBA."

Heat need victory to guarantee Wade's playoff push will continue

Miami controls its destiny, which sounds good.

Miami could also be eliminated on Sunday as well.

And Dwyane Wade's "One Last Dance" might end without a playoff berth.

The Heat have not dropped four straight games at any point this season. It would be in their best interest for that statement to remain accurate on Sunday, when Miami —losers of three straight—gets the rare noon tip-off at Toronto. If the Heat win, they remain alive regardless of other outcomes. If they lose, it might be over.

In fact, the remaining three spots in the Eastern Conference field could be claimed on Sunday. If Miami loses, and Brooklyn wins, and Detroit wins, the field will be set. If Miami wins, then the race is guaranteed to extend to at least Tuesday. And if the Heat go 3-0 in the next four days — after the game at Toronto, they host Philadelphia on Tuesday and visit Brooklyn on Wednesday — they're in the playoffs.

"You want to win in the playoffs, you have to learn how to win pressure games and games with expectation and consequences during the regular season," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "This can't feel any more like the playoffs right now. Our backs are fully against the wall. I just think this is an awesome experience for our team. You have to find a way to embrace this and rise to the challenge."

Philadelphia cut its magic number for clinching the No. 3 spot to one by defeating Chicago on Saturday. In the only other game on the NBA schedule — intentionally made light by the schedule-makers because of the NCAA Final Four going on — Brooklyn went up one spot to sixth, passing Orlando, by holding off Milwaukee on Saturday. The Bucks rested Giannis Antetokounmpo in that one because of a calf issue.

But all was not lost for the Magic.

Orlando can clinch its first playoff berth since 2012 on Sunday; the Magic would get in if they win at Boston, or if Miami and Charlotte both lose. If the Magic don't beat the Celtics, then Boston would secure a top-four spot and home-court for the first round.

Meanwhile, Oracle Arena will play host to more games. Probably a lot more games, to be honest, unless the Golden State Warriors get stunned in the early rounds of these playoffs.

But on Sunday night, the Warriors will play a regular-season game there for the 1,936th, and last, time.

And they could close that chapter at their Oakland home in style: A win over the Los Angeles Clippers in the home regular-season finale on Sunday would secure the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference race for the two-time defending NBA champions, who are moving to the brand-new Chase Center in San Francisco starting next season.

"We've got one more before we can seal up the No. 1 seed and take care of that goal," Warriors star Stephen Curry said. "These next three games are just about finishing the right way. I'm happy with where we are as a team, taking care of our business, and we'll figure out who we're going to play next weekend and we'll go from there."

Warriors-Clippers could be the West's headline game Sunday night, though many others will have a say in the seeding races.

Denver will look to sweep a home-and-home against the Trail Blazers when the teams meet in Portland. But the Nuggets are sitting Nikola Jokic, Paul Millsap and Jamal Murray to rest, which certainly helps out the Blazers.

Houston will be a very big favorite over Phoenix, and the Rockets could still get to No. 2 in the West—the spot currently held by Denver, which cannot slip past No. 3. Portland would be assured of the No. 4 spot with a 3-0 finish, while Utah, San Antonio and Oklahoma City also have games that matter seeding-wise Sunday.

Tan, Sendin take NMSA March honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Saipan International School's Tania Tan earned the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/Northern Marianas Sports Association Female Student Athlete of the Month for March award after her triumphs in several tournaments last month.

The reigning TSL Foundation/NMSA Student Female Athlete of the Year kicked off her busy and successful month with a first place finish in the Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk. She had the fastest time among the more than 500 female runners after completing the course that started and ended at the Garapan Fishing Base in 21:29.

Then a week after the Triple J event, the 17-year-old student raced in the 10K event of the 2019 Saipan Marathon. She ended up placing second overall in the women's field behind a Korean pro and the fastest female Saipan finisher after clocking in at 46:38.

Tan took a break for a week before returning to competition—via the 30th Tagaman Triathlon. She debuted in one of the oldest triathlon races in the Pacific, entering in the solo division and topping the U18 age group after completing the race in 4:52:42.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tania Tan heads out of the bike loop during last month's 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Charlie Sendin gets out of the water at Kilili Beach during last month's 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

Tan was both nominated by the Northern Marianas Athletics and the Triathlon Association of the CNMI for the coveted monthly plum.

TRAC also nominated Sendin and the diminutive triathlete won the NMSA Male Athlete of the Month plum for his triumph in last month's Tagaman.

Sendin was the first Saipan finisher in the 2-kilometer run, 60K bike, and 15K run race, completing the course in 3:56:14. He also finished third in the men's 30 to 34 age group. Sendin recorded split times of 35:30, 1:54:46, and 1:25:48.

Meanwhile, runner Traven Quitugua rounded out the March honor roll after getting the Male Student Athlete of the Month award.

The Saipan Southern High School student led the sprinters who qualified for the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships after making the grade in the trials last month.

LITTLE

From Page 28

left stranded at second and the Little Legals ended the match, as Diaz caught a line drive from Zack Dafron.

Blue Jays 18, Marlins 5

In the Minor division game, the Blue Jays stunned defending champions Kagman Marlins.

The Blue Jays needed only three and a half innings to beat the Marlins, who topped the division last year after downing the NSA Braves, 5-3.

N.J. Sablan powered the Blue Jays to the easy win after hitting a grand slam at the bottom of the first inning where his team scored three more runs to take control of the match. Another seven-run inning (third) set up the Blue Jays for the early victory.

Besides hitting a grand slam, Sablan also pitched the Blue Jays to their season-debut win, as he worked the mound without relief in four innings and struck out 10 batters.

The Blue Jays, Marlins, and Braves are the only teams vying for the Minor championship this season, which will be without the Junior and Senior League divisions and was delayed due to the lack of venue. The league used to have its matches at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, but both were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu. SLLB then had to wait for a softball league to wrap up before they could use the Capital Hill Ballfield.

SLLB head Mike Borka would like to thank the following for helping them push ahead with the competition this season: Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Triple J, Pacific Trading, Co., Pacific Rim, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works, the CNMI Legislature, and the Governor's Office.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Tanapag Falcons players and coaches huddle before heading back to the field during the bottom of the sixth inning of their Majors game against the Kagman Little Legals in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CNMI

From Page 28

Yutu flattened the island.

The CNMI swimmers were forced to take a break from swimming for months, but remained determined, as they returned to their regular training session in December to prepare for off-island competitions, including the Palau-hosted regional tournament.

Palau finished second to Team CNMI in the medal standings with its 17 gold medals, 22 silvers, and 31 bronzes, while Pohnei had an 8-10-7 tally, and the Marshall Islands hauled eight silvers and 10 bronzes.

Sakovich: Find a way

SSC co-founder witnessed Team CNMI ruled the inaugural competition in Palau, as he was an official in the event.

The CNMI Hall of Famer also facilitated SSC swimmers' last training session before they headed to Palau and wished that they could go back to an appropriate swimming venue.

"The government and the community should find a way to get the pool operational. I know it's very expensive to maintain the pool, but there's a solution to that," said Sakovich, who suggested charging fees for the usage of the facility.

"It's a community pool and everybody uses it. It really bothers me to see the pool closed. That pool has done a lot to our swimmers, to the community. Swimmers won medals for the CNMI and managed to go to college through scholarships because of that pool," the Father of Swimming in the Pacific said.

Kan Pacific, who took care of the Olympic-sized pool for nearly four decades, shut it down along with other facilities in Marpi after its lease extension agreement with the Department of Public Lands expired last Sept. 30. Then, initially, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LCC was given the green light to take over the management of the Marpi property, but there was a change of plans and now the pool is left to deteriorate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan members and officials cheer on their swimmers during the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships last Saturday in Palau.

Virginia sinks FT on disputed foul to stun Auburn

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nets bolster playoff hopes with win against Bucks

PAGE 26

Little Legals win season debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champions Kagman Little Legals prevailed in their early rematch against the Tanapag Falcons, 7-3, as the scaled-down 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball kicked off last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Starting pitcher Albert Adriano stood out both on offense and defense for the Little Legals to lift the Majors reigning champion to a convincing win over their rival last season. Adriano had a two-run homer at the start of the game and went on to finish the match with three runs on a 2-for-3 performance at the plate. He also struck out seven Falcons batters before reaching the pitching count limit late at the bottom of the sixth and last inning.

With Adriano's homer coupled with Ryan Dela Cruz, Austin Diaz and Santiago Seman's runs off the Falcons' errors at the top of the second, the Little Legals took a 5-2 lead.

The Falcons, who were beaten by the Little Legals in the finals last year, 6-4, scored their two runs at the bottom of the second off Damien Cruz's two-run single. The runners-up were then forced to a 1-2-3 in the third and fourth inning before Cruz put the squad on the board in the fifth with an RBI double.

However, before Cruz's hit brought Marvin Cabrera home in the penultimate inning, the Little Legals earlier added two more runs with Adriano reaching off a sac fly in the third and again in the fifth off a Falcons' booboo for a four-run lead.

The scores did not change, as the Little Legals' defense finished off the Falcons at the bottom of the sixth inning. Noah Iguel started the inning with a double, while Matthew Tomokane was beaten to first and Adriano fanned Vinnie Sablan before being relieved by Diaz for the two outs. Iguel was

See LITTLE on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Kagman Little Legals' Albert Adriano, left, avoids a tag from Falcons catcher Delton Lieto, while the former's teammate Jarod Muna is still down after sliding home during the top of the first inning of their Majors game in the opening week of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CNMI swimmers deliver

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan's Kean Pajarillaga, left, gets ready at the starting block during one of the races in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships last Thursday in Palau.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI swimmers who were greatly impacted by the closure of the Kan Pacific Pool and Super Typhoon Yutu persevered and turned out to be the champions of the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held in Palau.

Team CNMI collected 44 gold medals, 28 silvers, and 10 bronzes to rule the tournament held at the National Swimming Pool in Meyuns from April 4 to 6. The squad is made up of 10 swimmers from Tsunami Saipan and eight from Saipan Swim Club. Official and detailed results of the races at the 25-meter pool were unavailable as of press time.

Siblings Jinnosuke and Lennosuke Suzuki, sisters Jinju and Jinie Thompson, Taiyo Akimaru, Sophia Gauran, Savita Sikkel, and David Boyer were the SSC members that joined the competition, while Tsunami Saipan was represented by Nelson Batallones, Joseph Zhang, Juhn Tenorio, Aika Watanabe, Isaiah Aleksenko, Hans Xu, Kean Pajarillaga, Ashley Dangol, and Shoko Litulumar.

Both clubs endured the challenging training conditions here heading into their first off-island tournament, as they were left without an appropriate swimming venue when the Marpi pool shut down last Sept. 30. Tsunami Saipan and SSC swimmers turned into hotel pools and open water for their training, which less than a month after the Marpi pool closure was suspended when

See CNMI on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club's Jinju Thompson, right, walks pass the CNMI flag, as she and other swimmers head to the starting lane during the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships last Friday in Palau.